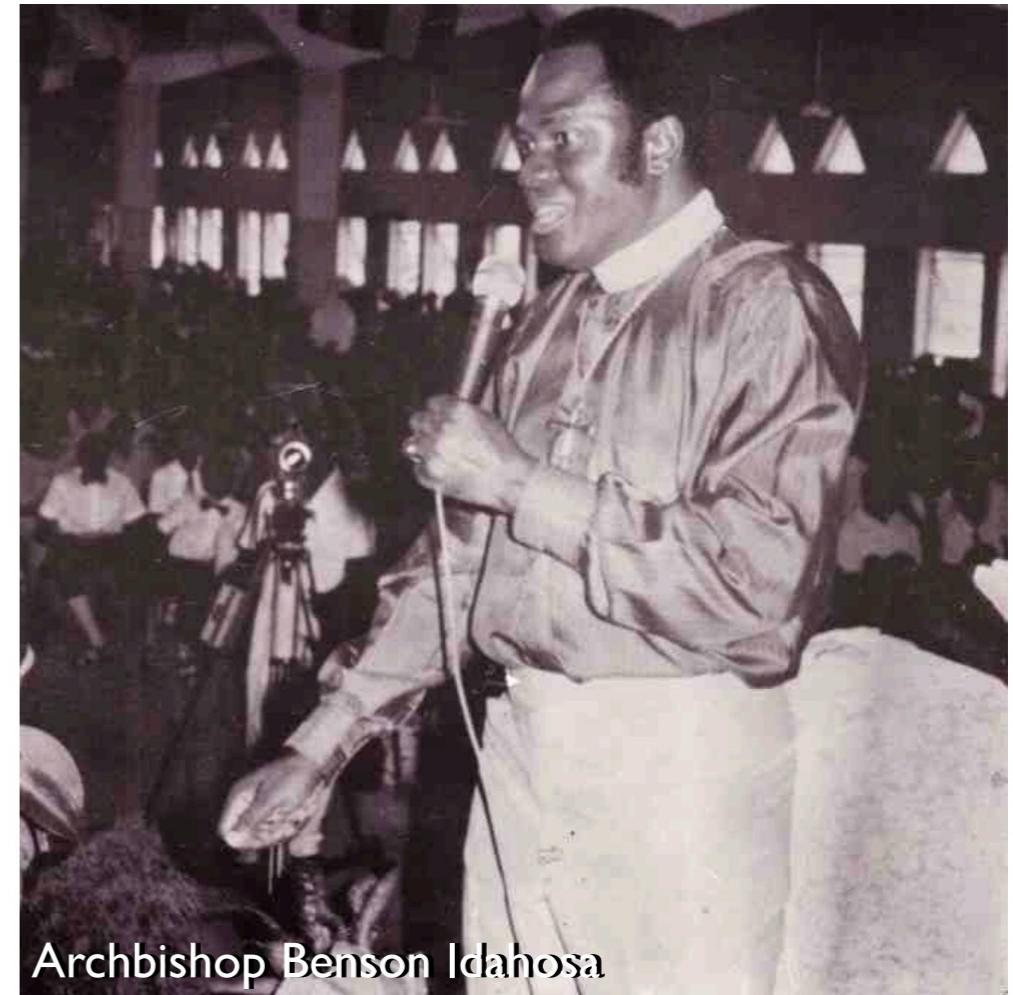


“From zero to surplus” - By Archbishop Benson Idahosa

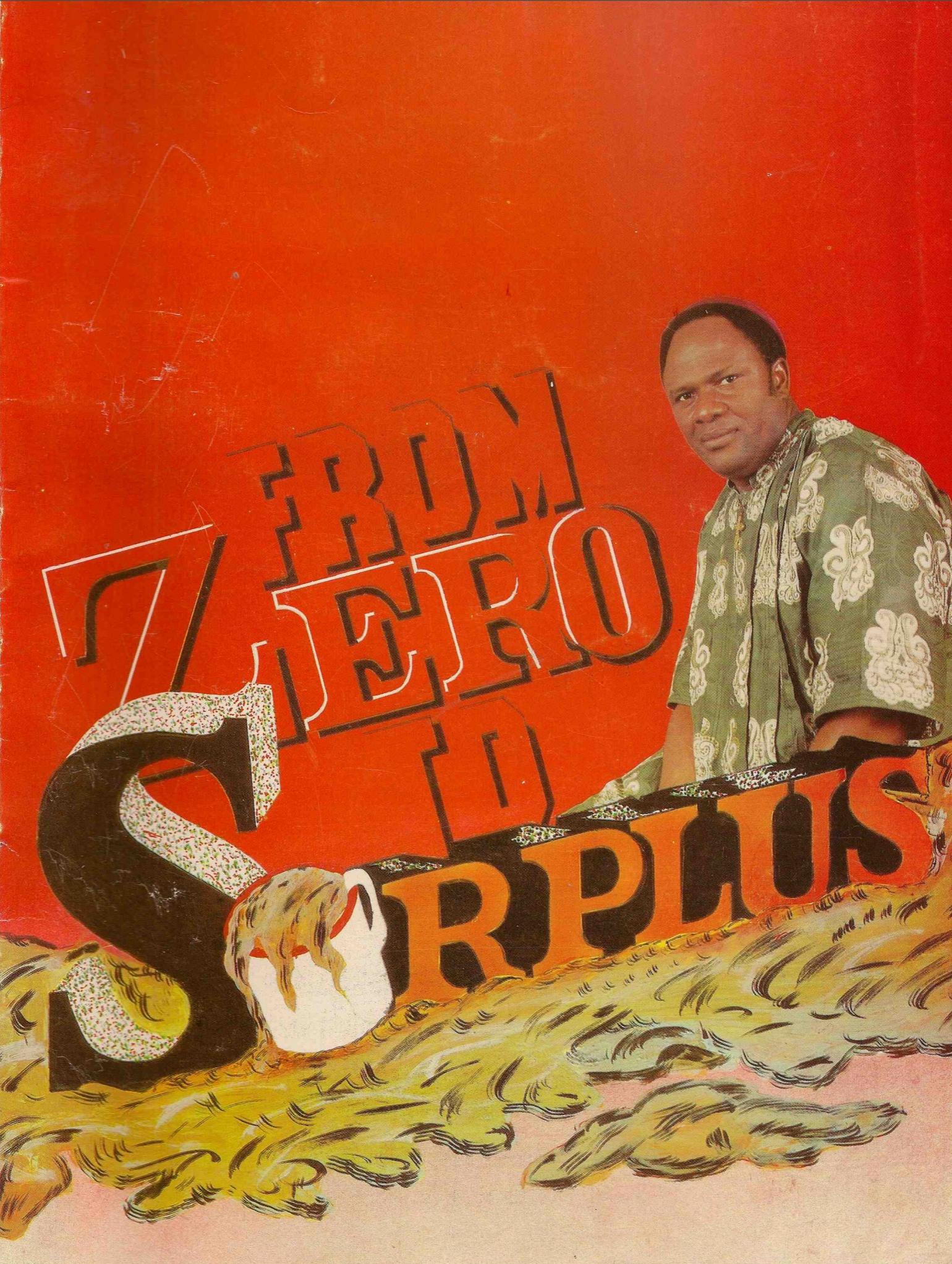
As we scanned the pages of this magazine to PDF format, I could see the love Mr Idahosa had for Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

We thank God to be part of this wonderful work of God.

“SPREAD THE GOSPEL”



Archbishop Benson Idahosa



From

ZERO

To

SURPLUS

Archbishop Benson Idahosa

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First Published in 1993

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The Man Benson

The mud-caked corridor of the corrugated iron-roofed home of the Idahosa family-house, was empty. Beyond the shade offered by the extended roof, the tropical sun in its full intensity was threatening the continued survival of the few blades of grass that had stubbornly clung to their green pigmentation, on the burning sand of the open courtyard that confronted the house. The trees at the outskirt of the compound were coated with several layers of dust and decorated with yellow and brown leaves which they shedded continuously as they made deep obeisance to the sky, under the mitigated force of the harsh and dry harmattan wind.

It was the early February of 1941 in the ancient city of Benin. Oba Akenzua II was on the traditional throne of his ancestors having been crowned Oba of Benin eight years before, and presented the staff of office of a first-class African king by Lieutenant-Governor Buchanan Smith who was the representative of the British Crown in the area. To be installed Oba, this eldest son of Oba Eweka II, known by the complex name of Oko Godfrey Edokpahoghuyunmwun Basimi Eweka, had to swear allegiance to His Majesty the British king, as Benin City and indeed all of what is now Nigeria was in political subjection to

the British Empire, either as colony or as protectorates. Benin City, the capital of the ancient and famous kingdom of Benin had been sacked and burned down by a British punitive expedition on 17th February, 1897, apparently in retaliation for the massacre of the British Acting Consul - General James R. Philips, and his team of officers. The then Oba Ovonramwen had been captured, tried and deported to Calabar where he died after sixteen years in exile in January, 1914. Now there was peace in Benin under the colonial administration, the Water Rate agitation spear-headed by the Benin Tax-Payers Association, headed by chiefs Okoro-Otun (the Iyase), Omoruyi (the Ezomo) and Erebo (the Osodin), having ended.

Pa John Idahosa emerged from behind the house, the matchet with which he brushes the light bushes on the tracks to his lumbering site in the forest, in his hands as he moved towards his bicycle which rested against the wall. He paused for a moment. His junior wife had gone to the market, and none of his three children were around. His fourth child, his fourth child? Well, yes; he had heard a few days before, that Benson, his sickly fourth child who had fled his compound with his mother (Sarah, Pa John's senior wife), was actually thriving. He had ordered that the child be thrown away in order to rid the family of a sickly son whose perennial spells of

The Man Benson

faintings had become a source of embarrassment to his household.

Little did he know that Benson was a child of destiny, destined by God for great things in His Kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. For so it came to pass that the young Benson overcame the sickness of his early childhood and grew up a normal African child, living with relatives and helping out as house help in these homes, engaging in animal trapping and hunting for which cause they sometimes roamed the wilds for days and weeks at a stretch. His was not a very happy early childhood: what with his rejection by his father, and the high-handedness with which he was reared, in the name of discipline, by relatives.

But be it as it may, through thick and thin, he managed to scrape through an initial western education in the Salvation Army School, Benin City, and the Methodist School, Owo. However, this only whetted

D

appetite for more knowledge. Accordingly learning by correspondence, he soon obtained a Diploma in Business Administration, and a Higher Diploma in Office Management, while he worked in Bata Shoe Company. But his job in Bata Shoe Company was not to last.

Having become a Christian with a definite knowledge of the Lord through God's extra-ordinary intervention in his life, he soon had the call of God into the Christian Ministry. In his search for proper equipment for the ministry, he worked for and obtained certificates, diplomas and associate degrees from several institutions among which are Igbaja Bible College, Nigeria, and Christ For The Nations Institute, Dallas Texas. U.S.A. Today, having been honoured by many renowned institutions of higher learning, the Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Benson Idahosa has become the most illustrious of the children of Pa John and Mama Sarah Idahosa, both of whom

CELESTIAL PUBLICATIONS

The Man Benson

passed over to the great beyond before they could see the glory of the son that constituted a cause of separation between them. The ways of the Lord are beyond finding out!

Under God's guidance and encouragement, the Pastor Benson Idahosa founded the Church of God Mission International. Having been tried most rigorously in the Christian ministerial crucible, the refiner's fire taking the form of numerous challenges within and without the church and family, and the several court cases among which was the famous contempt of Court case, he has emerged as the Archbishop of Church of God Mission International, the President and founder of All Nations For Christ Bible Institute, the President and founder of Idahosa World Outreach, a father and counsellor to numerous Christian ministries, an ambassador extra-ordinary of the Kingdom of Christ, an executive member of College of Bishops of the International Churches, a Preacher, born to preach and happy to preach

Said the Archbishop Idahosa:
"The fulfilled ambition that has offered me the deepest spiritual satisfaction in life is the power to overcome temptation, because not many who are insulted, accused, and fought against as I have been, have stood their ground, and not lost sight of their vision."

Married to Rev. Dr. Mrs. Margaret Idahosa, the Archbishop has four children, all of whom are following the footsteps of their father in the desire to know more about God, serve Him and demonstrate that Jesus is alive.

HERE NOW ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT THE MAN THAT MAY INTEREST YOU.

Date of Birth: 11th September, 1938.

Theological Education and Membership of Organizations: Recognitions, and Honours

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

1. (a) Diploma of Divinity
- (b) Associate of Practical Theology.

Honours

- 1 **Christ For The Nations Institute, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.**
- 2 (a) *Master of Church Administration*
- 3 (b) *Professor - Consultant*
(c) *Professor de Philosophie Evangelique*
The International University, Brussels, Belgium
- 4 (a) *Doctor of Laws, (March 1984),*
Oral Robers University, Tulsa, Oklahoma

MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANIZATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- 1 *Life membership, Bible Society of Nigeria.*
- 2 *Member, International Ministerial Association for Community Concerns in Washington, D.C.*
- 3 *Certified member, World Prayer Group, Dallas, Texas.*
- 4 *Executive member, World Council of Churches*

- 5 *Chairman, Board of Trustees of Church of God Mission International.*
- 6 *Executive Member, College of Bishops of Charismatic Churches.*
- 7 *President, All Nations For Christ Bible Institute.*
- 8 *President, Idahosa World Outreach.*
- 9 *Member, International Evangelical Church and Missionary Association.*
- 10 *Executive Council Member, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).*
- 11 *Executive Council Member, British Society of Commerce Nigeria.*

HONOURS

- 1 *Certificate of Appreciation for Active and Co-operative Leadership*
- 2 *Certificate of Commendation from Detroit City Council, U.S.A. for Outstanding Evangelistic Work.*
- 3 *Certificate of Recognition, Full Gospel Fellowship of Churches and Ministers International*
- 4 *Certificate of Membership, International Evangelical Church and Missionary Association*

Honours!

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 5. | <i>Special Tribute from the State of Michigan, U.S.A.</i> | 10 | <i>Honorary Citizen of the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico</i> |
| 6. | <i>Honorary Citizen of Loves Park, Illinois, U.S.A.</i> | 11. | <i>Regent: Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Oklahoma.</i> |
| 7. | <i>Honorary Citizen of Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A.</i> | 12. | <i>International Honorary Vice Chairman, Charismatic Bible Ministries (CBM)</i> |
| 8. | <i>Patron - British Society of Commerce Nigeria.</i> | 13. | <i>Associate Regent, Bethel Christian College, and Bethel Graduate School of Theology, Riverside, California. U.S.A.</i> |
| 9. | <i>Honorary Fellow - British Society of Commerce Nigeria.</i> | | |

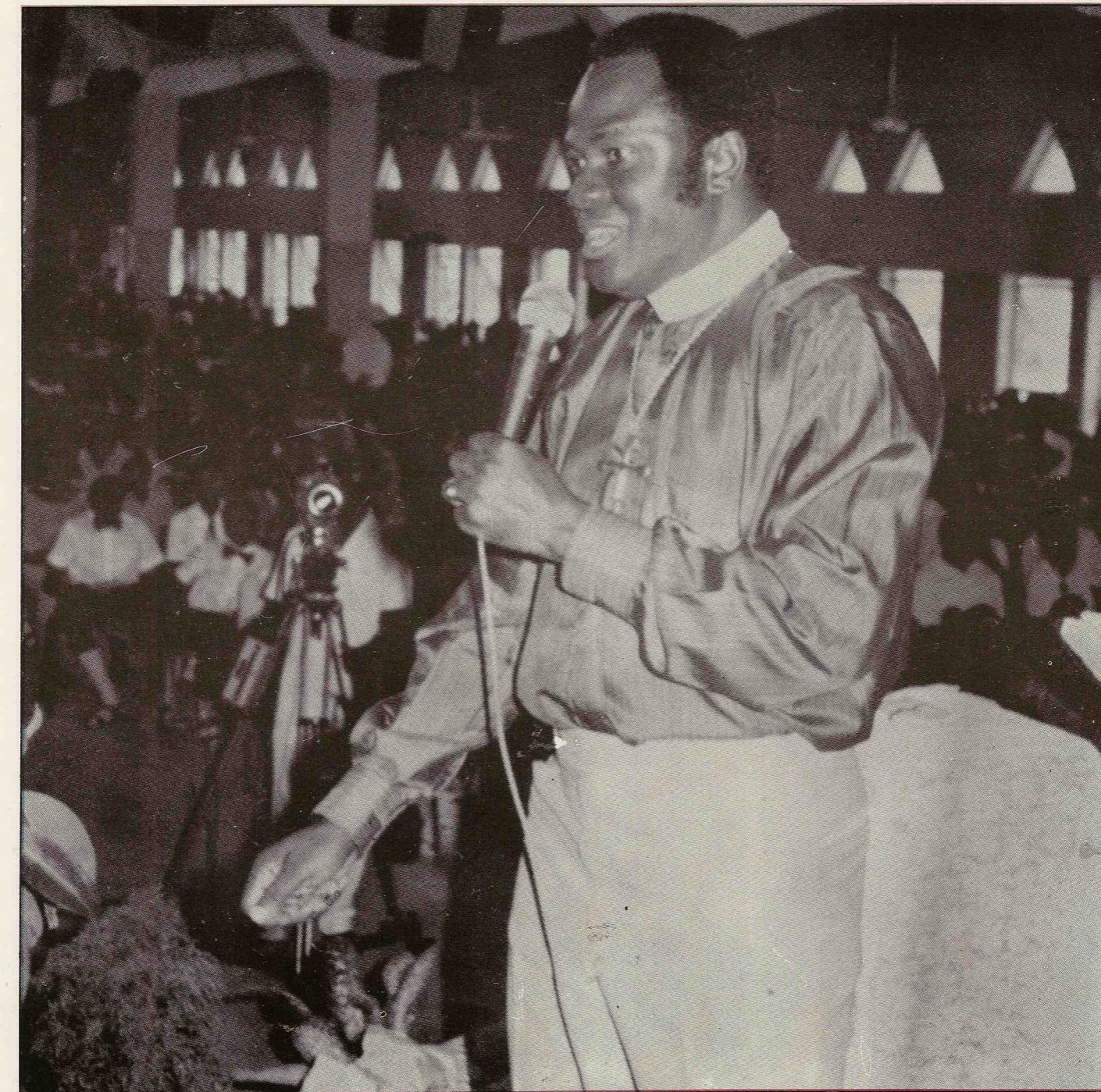
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PICTORIAL EXCURSION

Below is a pictorial excursion which by itself tells the story of how God snatched a man from the clutches of death, and raised him up to sit with kings and noble men. We pray that as you now read the story in the form of the descriptive captions written by the Archbishop himself, you will be blessed with the knowledge and assurance that no matter your present position in life, God can lead you from Zero to Surplus.

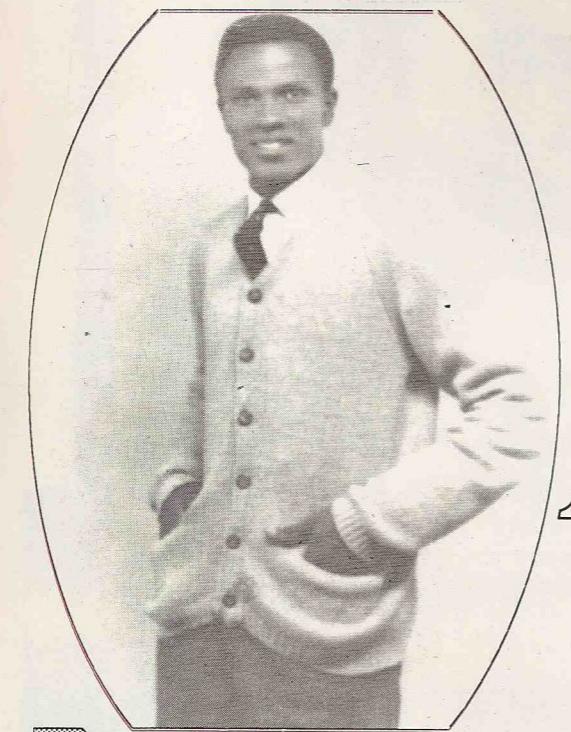
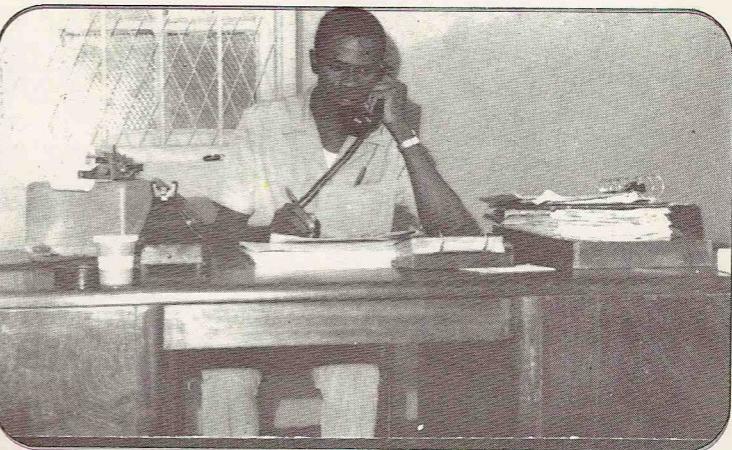
The Lord God Almighty richly bless you.

HEAD: IWO/CGM PUBLICATIONS, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA.



The Young Executive

Before coming into full time ministry, I had the opportunity to engage in several life endeavours, and one of them was working in the Bata Shoe Company. Because of my desire for upward social mobility and my accompanying hard work, coupled with God's favour upon my life, I soon attained a supervisory position in the company. As a supervisor in Bata Shoe Company, it was my earnest desire to see that the company reached its peak of achievement. With my experience as a supervisor, God taught me the secret of leadership which was to become very useful in fulfilling my Call to the ministry.

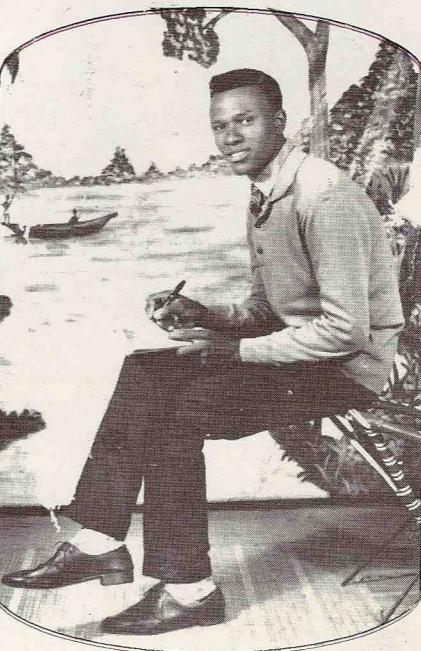


In the year 1962, I was 24, ready to launch into the ministry. In those days, I used to be very tall, if you know what I mean.



As a supervisor, I played an active role in the administration of the company. Here am I leading a team of the company workers to welcome one of the company's executives.

As a young man of 27, my greatest desire was to carry out the command of the Lord and to finish the work which He has assigned to me. By 1959, I was set to be an instrument in God's hand.

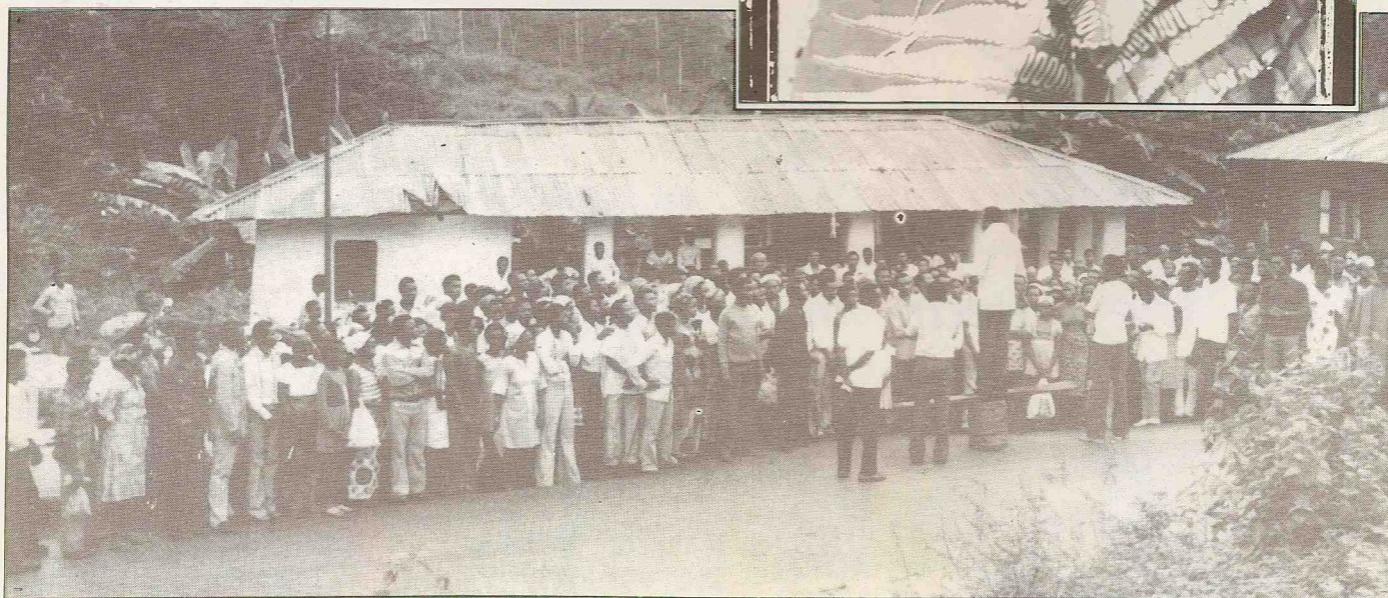
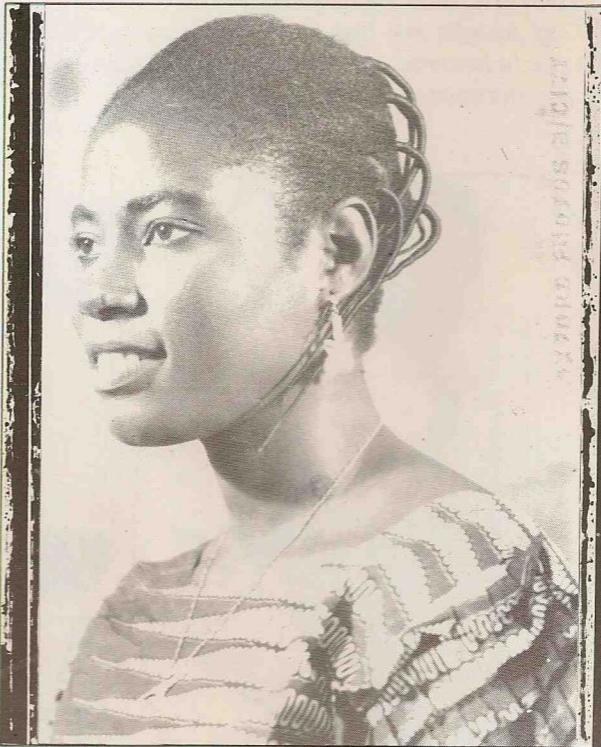


A Gentleman Of Faith.



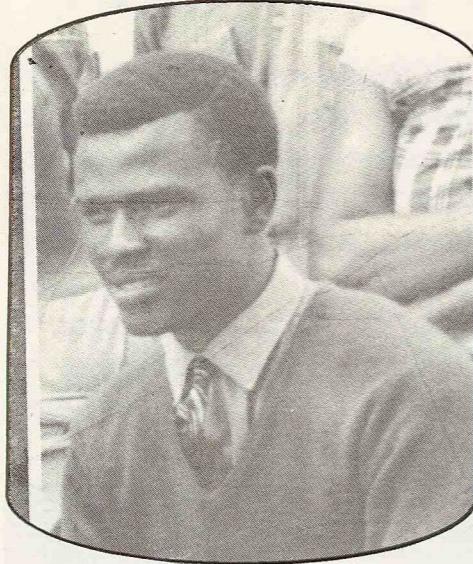
In 1959, I had enrolled as a correspondent student with London Benneth Correspondence College. My career, personality, and this picture won the heart of Margaret, now Rev. Dr. (Mrs.) M. E. Idahosa. And who would not have fallen for a young man like this! Look at the photograph again. The contemporary fashion of a path in the hair notwithstanding, I was a gentleman through and through. What do you say!

Then Margaret sent to me this picture of herself as a young woman and our friendship began.



Because I am a Bini by tribe, I found it easy to gain access to the surrounding Bini villages. I would usually take a team to a village and begin by making a call on the chief of the place to obtain permission to preach to the people. When we begin to sing Gospel choruses, a crowd would gather and I would preach the word and pray for the sick, and they recovered. This was the first crusade I held, and it was at Ajagbodudu near Sapele in 1961, eight years before I got married. Note the wonderful platform on which I stood preaching. It is certainly a far cry from our present day crusade platforms!

Crusading For Souls

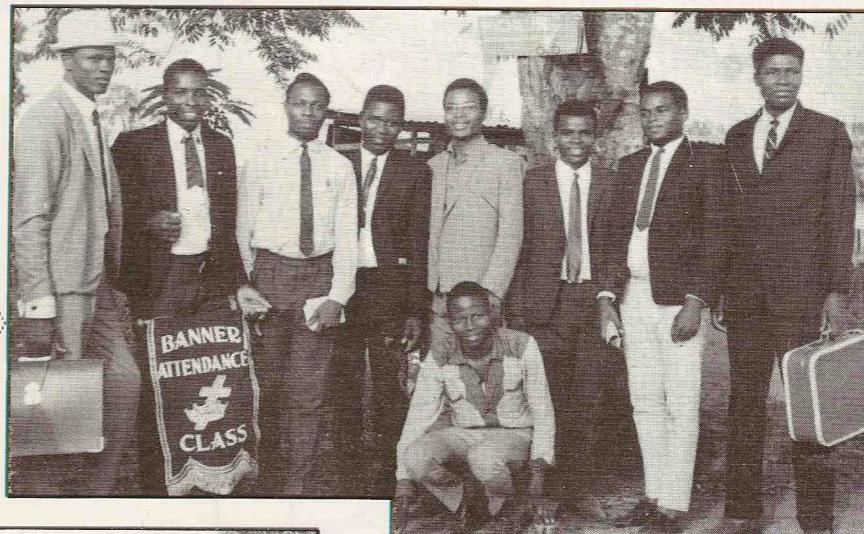
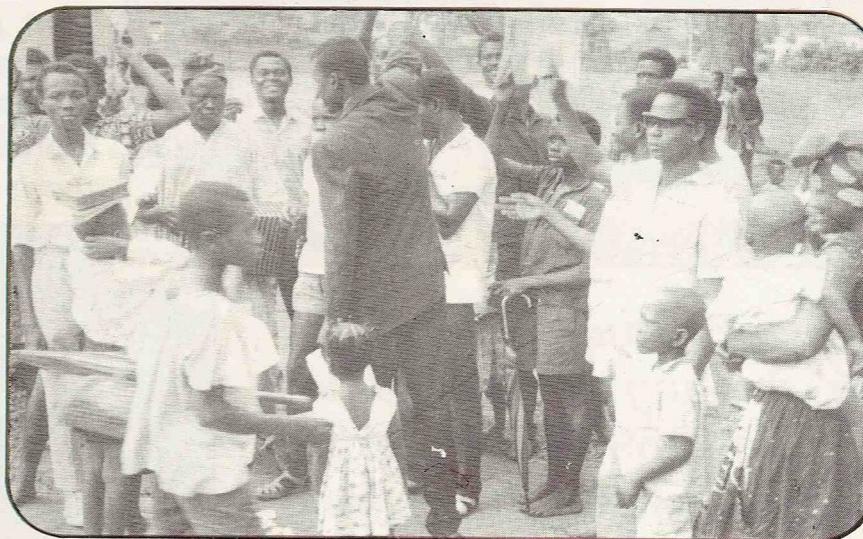


Because of my thirst for knowledge in the things of God, and in my attempts at growth in the Ministry, I became a correspondent student of a Bible College at Ilorin in 1962. This was a year after my first crusade.

That same year, I attended a ministers conference at Abraka Delta State. Here a group of ministers pose for a photograph at the conference grounds. You can see that I attended the conference in style!

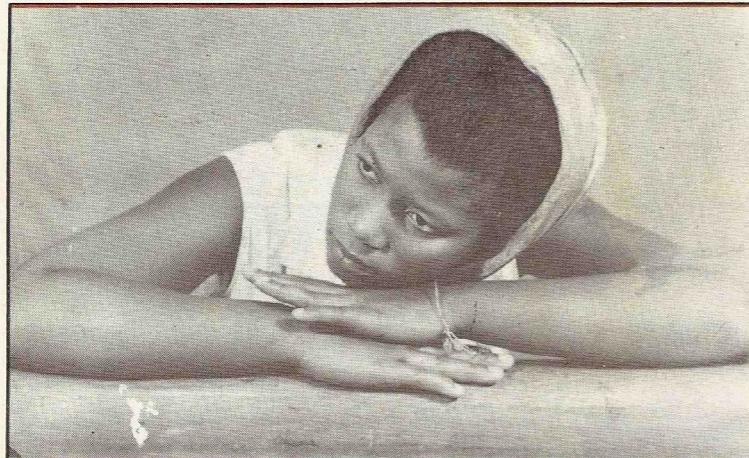


In 1963, I held another open air meeting at Oghareki, Delta State, Nigeria.



After the minister's conference, I held a crusade at Abraka shortly after in 1962

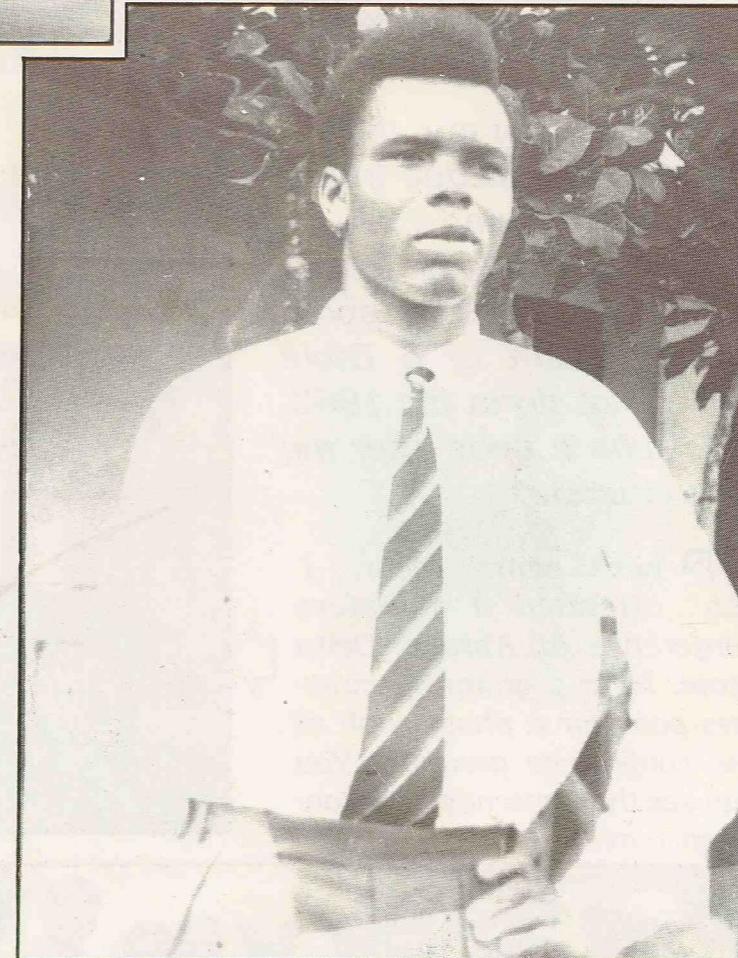
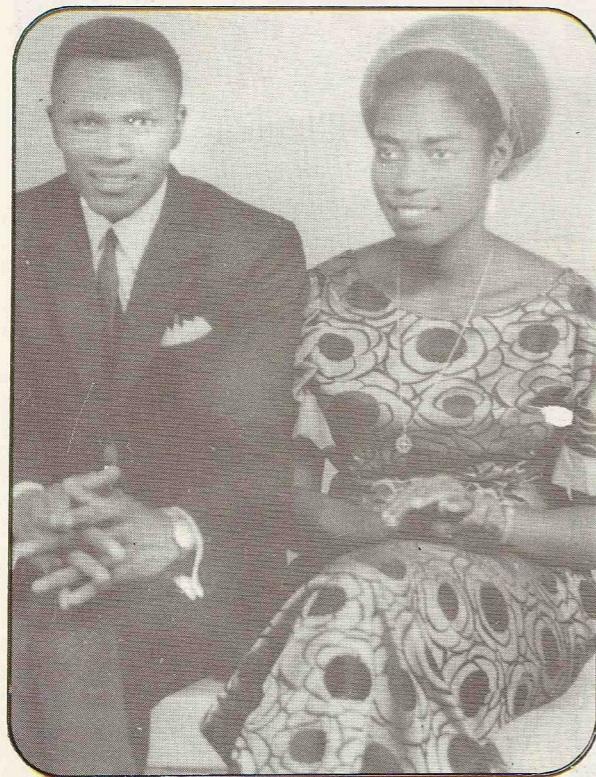
Sweet-Hearts In Christ?



Many of those who see me today do not realize that I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I passed through the "ranks" of hardship like many are doing today. This is a photograph of my friend, Mr. Edward Ero; he can bear testimony to my early life of struggle because he loaned me the first coat which I ever wore in life.



On February 16, 1962, having met each other in late 1959, I received the second photograph from Margaret with the following inscription written on its reverse side: "From your sweet heart in Christ." Can you imagine that!



Here are Margaret and myself as young people. While I confronted reality, looking straight at the camera, she seemed to be gazing far into a better future. I did not know what she was seeing, but the present then did not offer much to write home about. This was our first photograph together. There was yet no thought or talk of marriage.

No! Not A Pastor!



After Margaret completed her course of study at a Teacher Training College, she came back home to the Iyaro area of Benin City. One evening, I went to visit her, in a serious mood. We sat in the court-yard behind the house to talk. I went straight to the point. "Margaret, I've been praying about a wife", I began. "I believe the Lord has shown me that you are the one I am to get married to." Margaret was offended; she broke down crying. She had known me as a brother and wanted that status quo maintained. She did not want to be a Pastor's wife. I told her mother my intention and she also began to cry, but for a different reason, "I will be grateful to have you for a son-in-law!" she had exclaimed. But Margaret held strongly to her bias about marrying a Pastor. However, in the end, my persuasion won the day. On April 6, 1969, we were married in a little store-front building where I had been teaching Bible Studies. My wedding suit was loaned to me by Mr. Edward Ero.



Two months after our wedding I held a crusade at Warri in June, 1969. We sang praises to the Lord before and during all crusades.

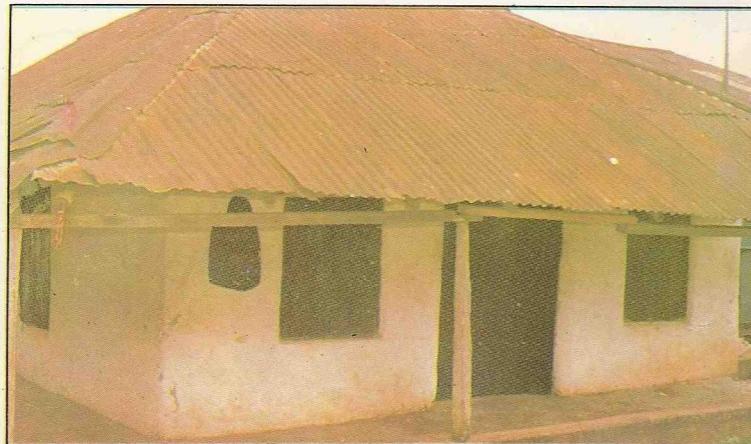


And in September, 1969, we had a crusade at the King's Square, Benin City. Here, my wife Margaret sings with me on the platform.

Seeding For A World Mission



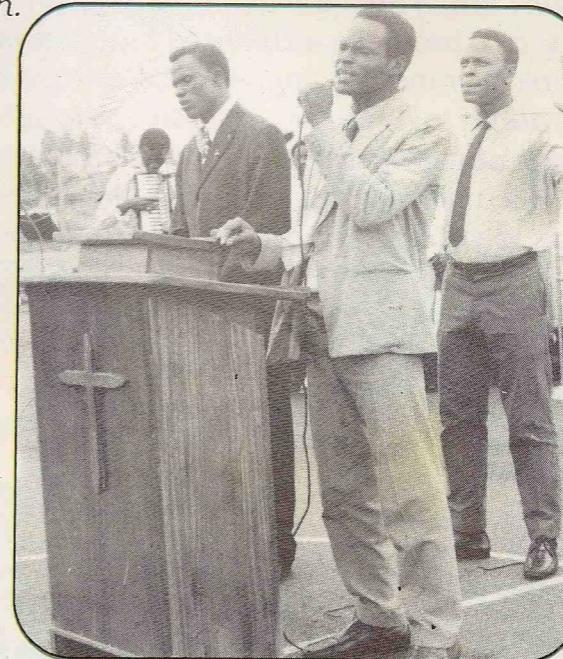
This is a photograph of Margaret's mother. She was a sweet woman and was of great encouragement to us as a couple



This is the little store front building where Church of God Mission International started, with seven adults and five children. It was situated at Forestry Road, Benin City. This was where I began the teaching of Bible Studies, and where I later wedded. What a beginning! This was the little seed that has given birth to a world mission.

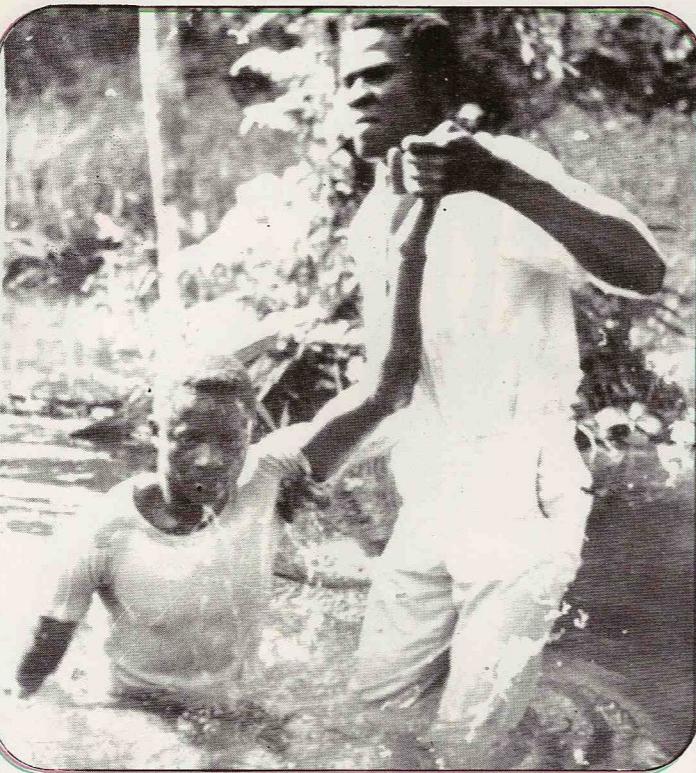


After our wedding, a year went by and Margaret did not conceive a child. Her family anxiously awaited word that a baby was on the way, but the word did not come. We sought the help of a gynaecologist who, after all his tests, said that Margaret had an internal heat condition that will never permit her to have children. But having searched the Scriptures, and seen God's promises, I believed and assured Margaret that we would have children. And on December 22, 1972, we had a son and called his name "Faith Emmanuel Benson" or Feb for short. Here now is Feb celebrating his 3rd Birthday anniversary in London.

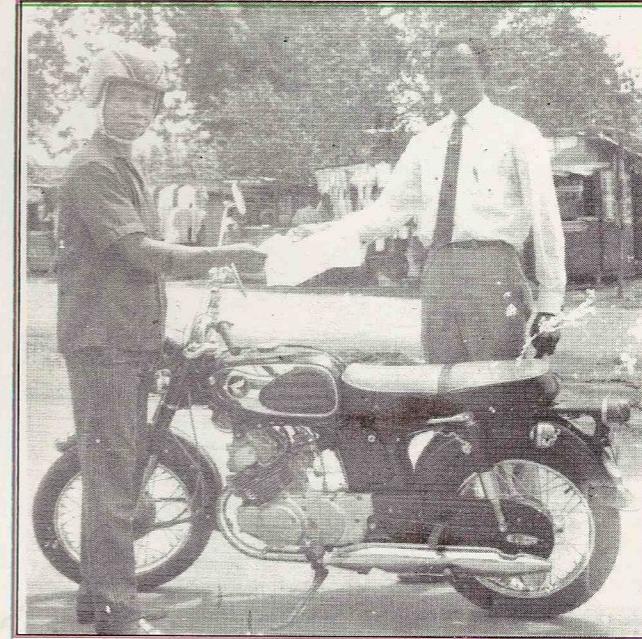


I have always believed in team work, and that has been one of the secrets of our success in the Ministry. Here, in one of my early crusades, a friend and co-labourer in the Vineyard, Evangelist Chikezie says the opening prayer.

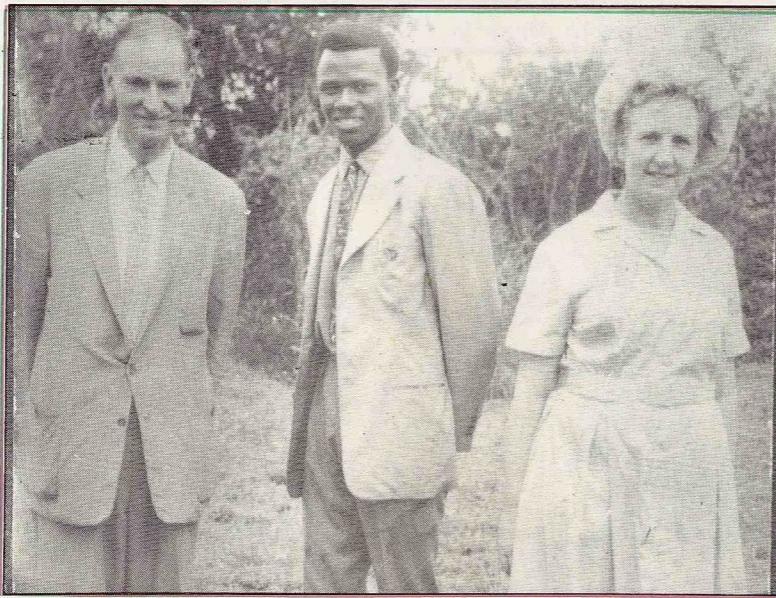
Papa & Mamma Elton



One day, I met a man whom God had arranged to work with me. He is the Late Rt. Rev. Dr. J.B.S. Coker, a one time Bishop in the Church of God Mission International. Here we are rejoicing over the gift of a motor-cycle from me.



After each crusade, I took time off to baptize the new converts. Here I am baptizing one of my early converts, now an elder in the church: he is Elder Ogbomoede.

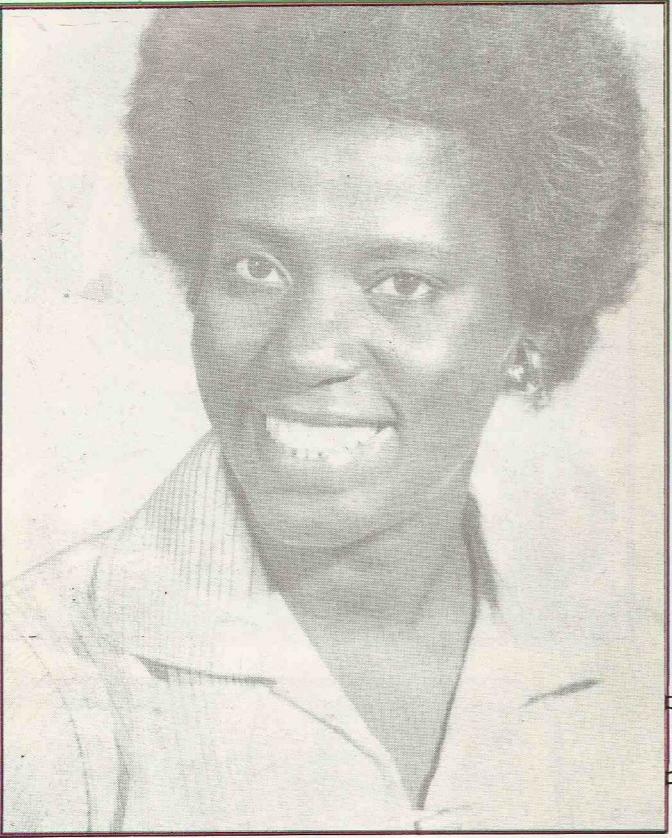


One day, early in 1971, I received a letter from Rev. Elton in Ilesha "I am bringing Gordon Lindsay to visit you in Benin City," the message read. Gordon Lindsay actually came on the appointed day, and before he left, he said to Rev. Elton, "I believe Benson ought to come to the United States to go to the Bible School. If he will come to Dallas, I will give him a scholarship to the School which we have just opened, Christ For The Nations." And that was how I became a student of the Christ For the Nations Institute in Dallas Texas where I took this photograph.

Early in the Ministry, I was alone in my bedroom one day praying, when the Lord spoke to me very clearly; "I have a servant in Ilesha, named Elton, whom you have never met; Go to Ilesha and see him, "I even had a vision of what the man looked like, he was a white man with grey hair, about 60 years old. After encountering a lot of difficulties, I finally met the late Rev. Elton and his wife, who became parents to me in the Ministry, and for whom members of the Church of God Mission and myself had the fond names of "Pa Elton" and "Mama Elton".

No Longer The Black Angels!

As her involvement in the ministry increased, the now Rev. Dr. Mrs. M. E. Idahosa went to England for further studies, at which time she took this photograph.

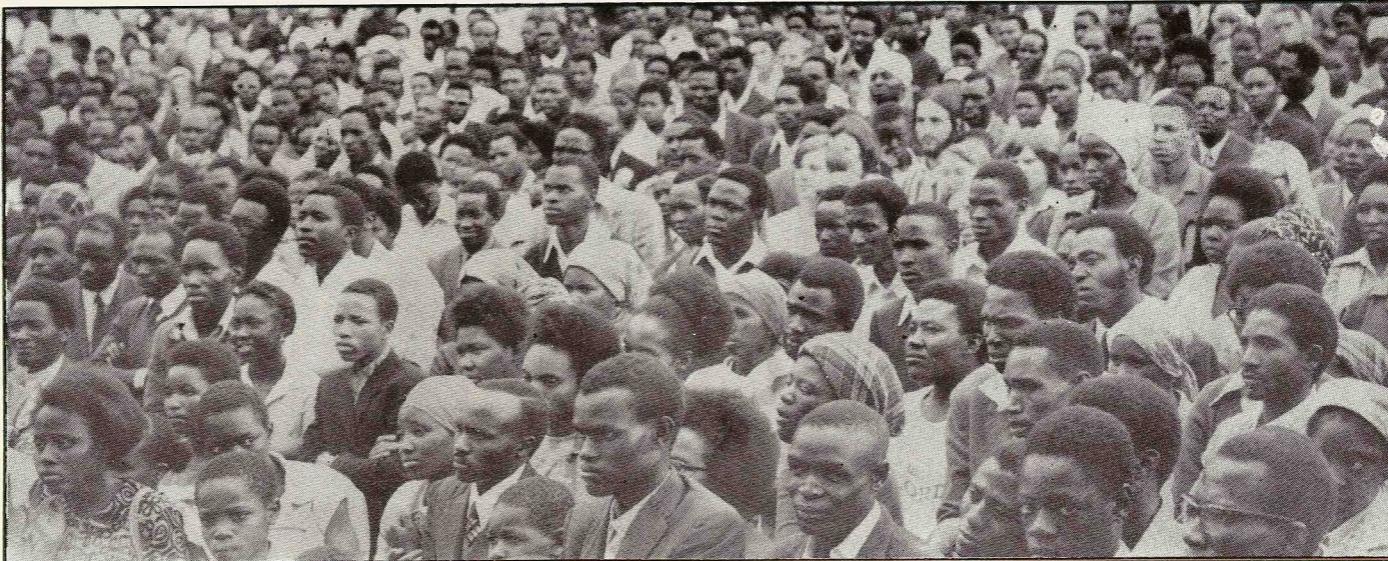


Here is the now Rev. Mrs. Victoria Keyamo and some members of our Choir, then known as the Black Angels, preparing the heart of the people with spiritual songs before the message in one of our crusades at Agbor in 1973.

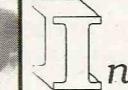


In carrying out the commission of God to go and preach the Gospel, I have always loved people especially those to whom I am pastor. Often, I have found myself in the midst of the congregation, singing praises to God and dancing in our joy for the privilege to worship God.

Go preach the Gospel to all



↑
On October 9th, 1972, I held my second crusade in Sapele. In this crusade a lot of people including Rev. Ayo Oritsejafor received the Lord into their lives and were saved. Rev. Ayo accepted the Lord as Saviour on the 4th day of the crusade.



↓
In 1973, we had a crusade at Owo, Ondo State. ←



In 1978, our Gospel Outreach went again to Warri.

This Bible School... a Watershed

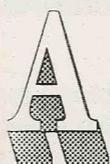


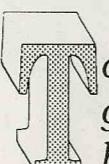
As a result of these numerous Gospel outreaches, thousands of people were being won to the Kingdom, and the number of our branch churches and their congregations was increasing by leaps and bounds. It soon became imperative for us to have an Institute for the training of pastors who would take charge of the various branches of the Ministry, and who would help fulfill the commission of taking the Gospel to every part of the world. During my many years of learning in Bible Schools, the Lord had impressed upon me the need to establish one which will be a watershed to many Christian ministries across the nations. And so in 1968 we started a 3 months Bible course. But today we have a full-fledged Bible School, the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute, which offers formal courses leading to the award of Certificates, Diploma, and Associate of Arts Degrees. Here are a group of our 1979 Bible School Students, some of their lecturers and myself.



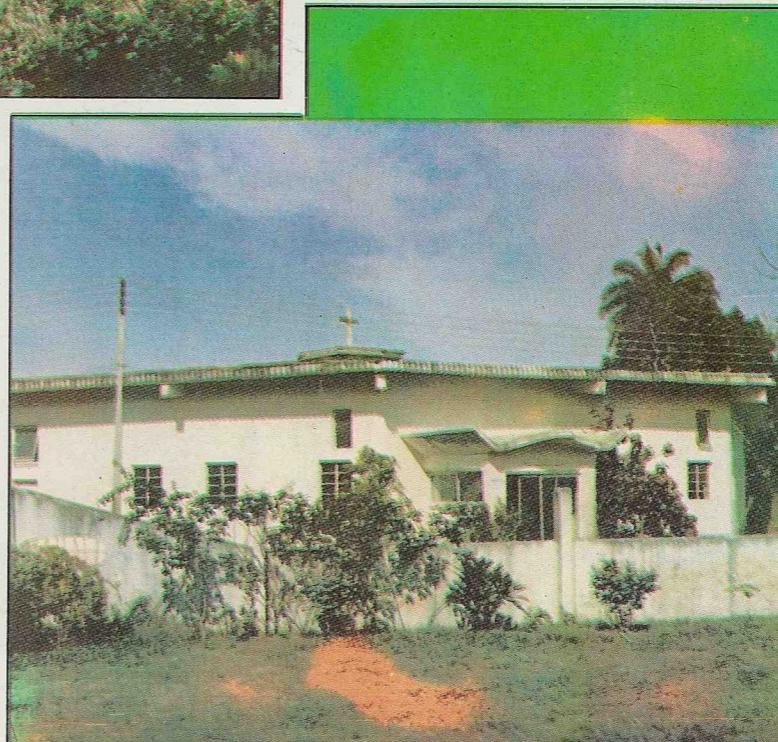
As the Bible School vision became a physical reality and as God provided the much needed field materials, I was able to send out groups of pastors and student-pastors from the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute, into the field with Gospel materials like megaphones, projectors, films, Bibles, tracts, cassette-recorders and players, etc.



 As growth set in, we were able to erect structures for the ANFCBI. Here, Rev. Chucks Flyn lays the foundation stone of the first dormitory of the Bible School.

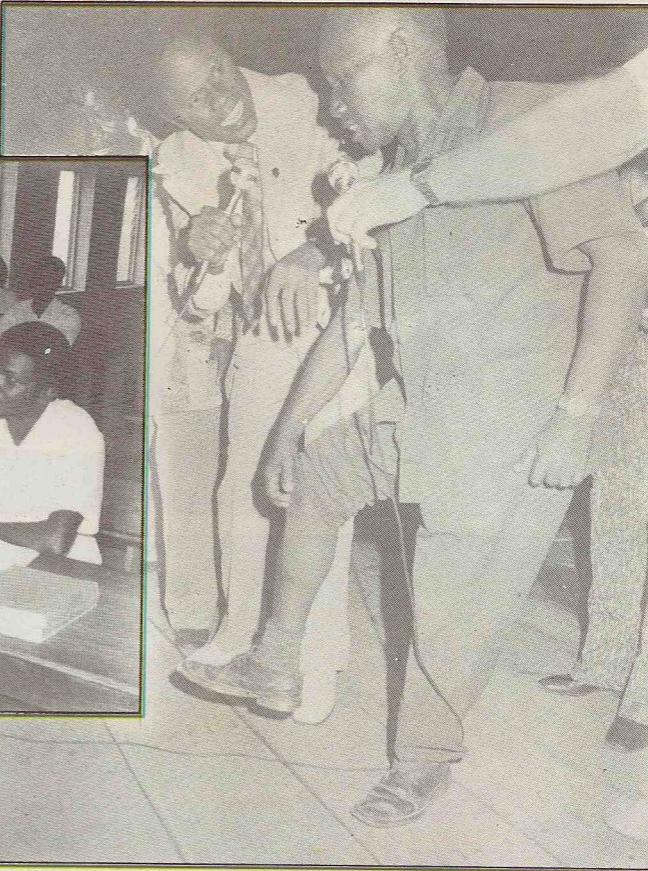
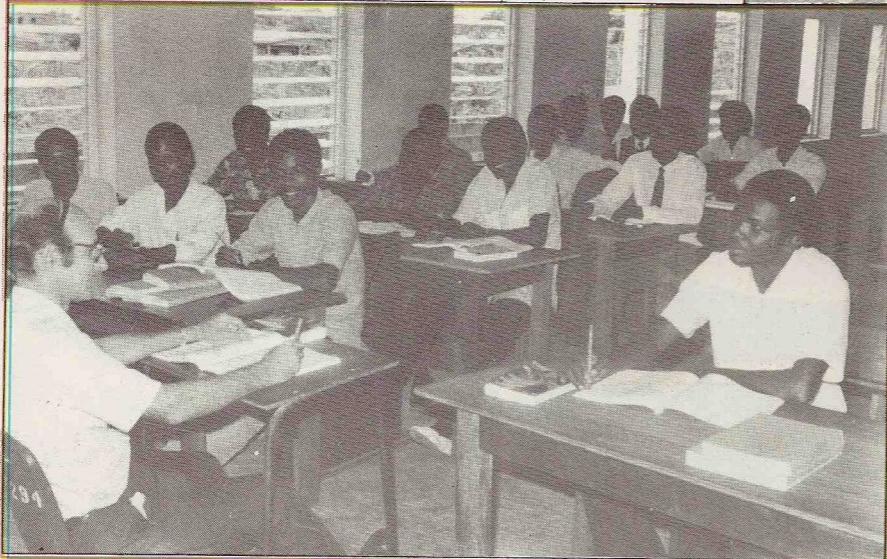
 Today our Bible School has grown and this is one of the blocks of the Bible School and it houses the dormitory, cafeteria etc.

 This is the main lecture hall of the Bible School and it was built to house the T.V. Department of the Ministry but with the tremendous growth of the Bible school, it was transferred to the school.

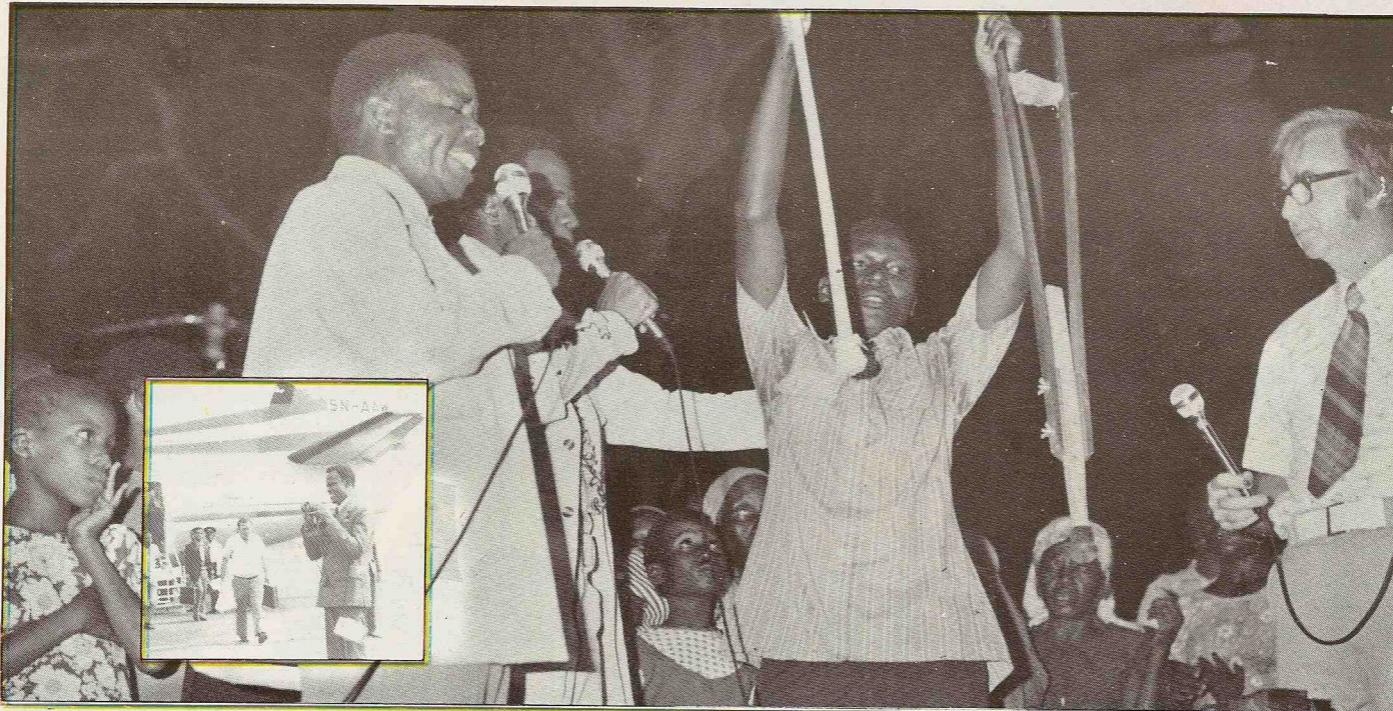


Beyond The Shores Of Nigeria

Degree students studying the Book of Corinthians under the tutorship of Rev. Andrew Gray Daniels, the Vice-Principal of the Bible School.



As my anointing in the ministry increased, the Lord began to extend our evangelistic scope as we carried the Gospel beyond the shores of Nigeria and Africa. And the Lord always honoured us with His presence by miracles. Here is a lame man healed in our crusade in Mombasa in January, 1976.



And another testifies of the miraculous healing of his leg. "I could not for many years move this leg", the man seem to be saying. "But now see the goodness of the Lord to me; I am healed"!!

Children are an inheritance from the Lord



After our initial difficulty, in begetting children, we began to have them in quick succession. Here are our four children: standing in front, is the baby of the family - Freda, then FEB; standing to the right is our second child - Ruth; and standing to the left is our third child, Daisy.

As we grew in the things of God and advanced in the fulfillment of God's call upon our lives, the love between Margaret and myself also grew as we both fully participated in the work of the ministry. Look at this photograph: you can't beat this!



And our children were not left out of our love.

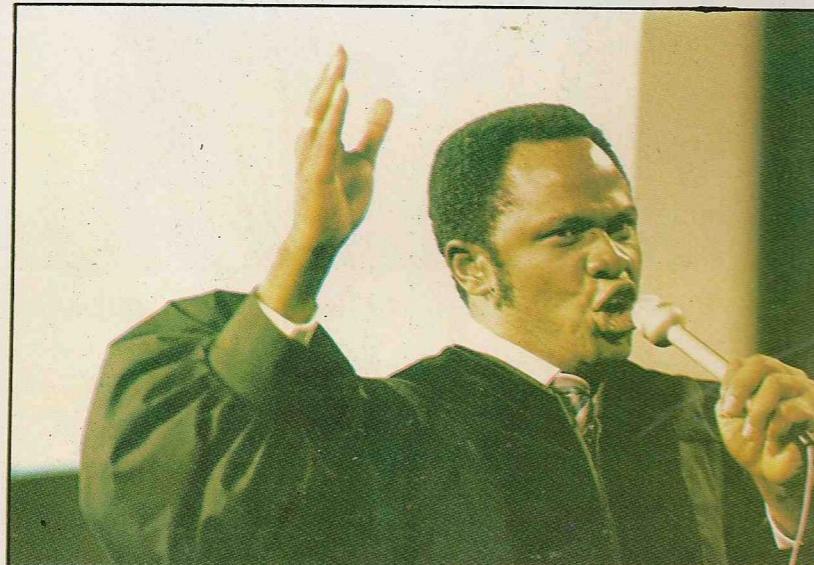
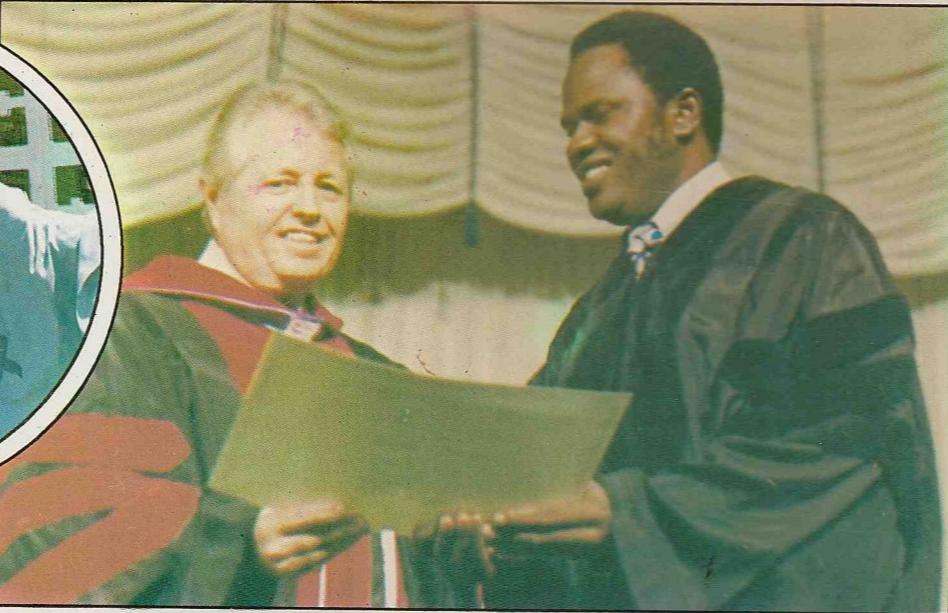


The life of God in me and in my wife and children also flowed to my blood brothers and sisters. From left to right are my eldest sister (the first born of our parents) Deaconess Josephine Bazuaye (Nee Idahosa); Elder John Idahosa my elder brother; Deaconess Dora Azenabor (Nee Idahosa); myself; Deaconess Comfort Ayemere (Nee Idahosa); Deaconess Maria Amayabwo (Nee Idahosa); and Mr. Felix Idahosa - our kid brother. We are all in the faith serving God in the same ministry.

Life In Christ Is Life Indeed

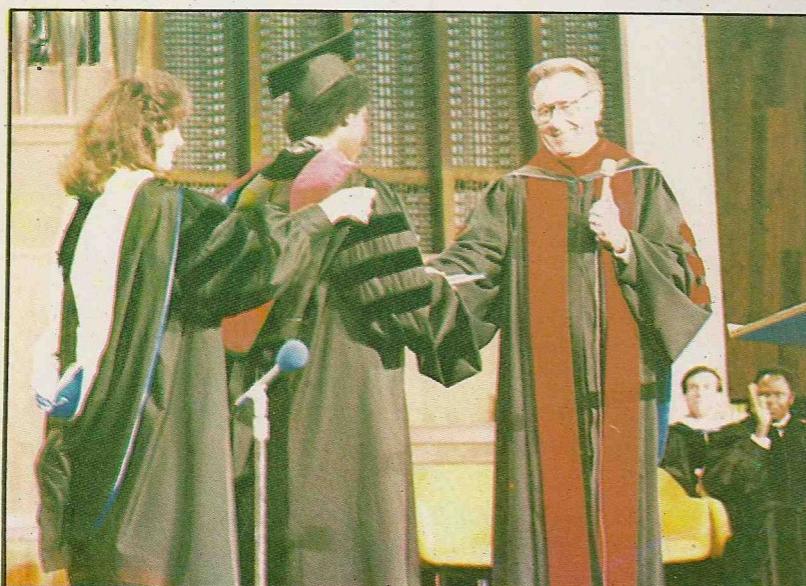


The life in Christ is
life indeed.



Preaching the word brought with it, God's miracles, and God's miracles attracted fame and popularity, and fame has given birth to numerous honours. On May 31st 1981, I was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by the Word of Faith College, New Orleans, State of Louisiana U.S.A. Here Dr. Charles Green, President of the Word of Faith College, presents to me the award.

Soon after (1984), I was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma U.S.A., in recognition of God's hand upon my life and my work in the Kingdom of Christ.



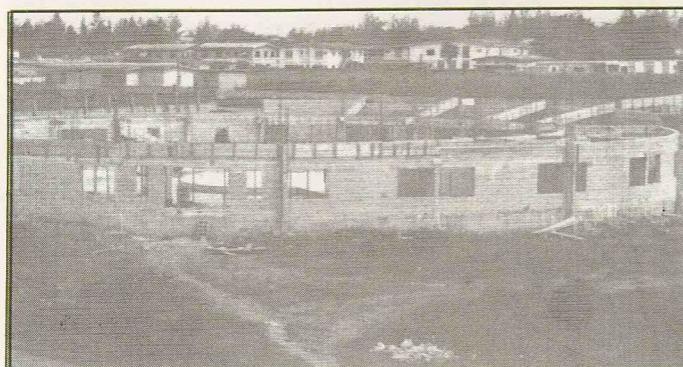
That same year (1984), the Oral Roberts University gave to my wife, Rev. Dr. (Mrs.) Margaret E. Idahosa, the award of Honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Worship His Majesty In His Temple

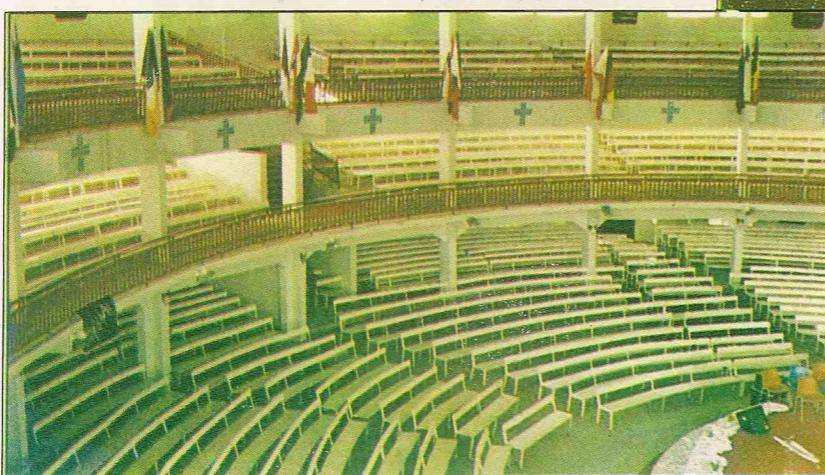


Very early in the ministry, God gave to us the burden for the establishment of Churches in Africa. We did not want to be guilty of winning souls and leaving them behind to struggle on their own. Accordingly, we have established and are still establishing new Churches, as millions of unchurched people continue to be saved. We do not only establish these Churches, we also help them in building places of worship. It has always been a joy for me to see or be a part of the dedication

of worthy places of worship of Christ, for members of His body. In 1975, we opened and dedicated the Miracle Centre Main Auditorium whose fame has gone with us to different parts of the world.



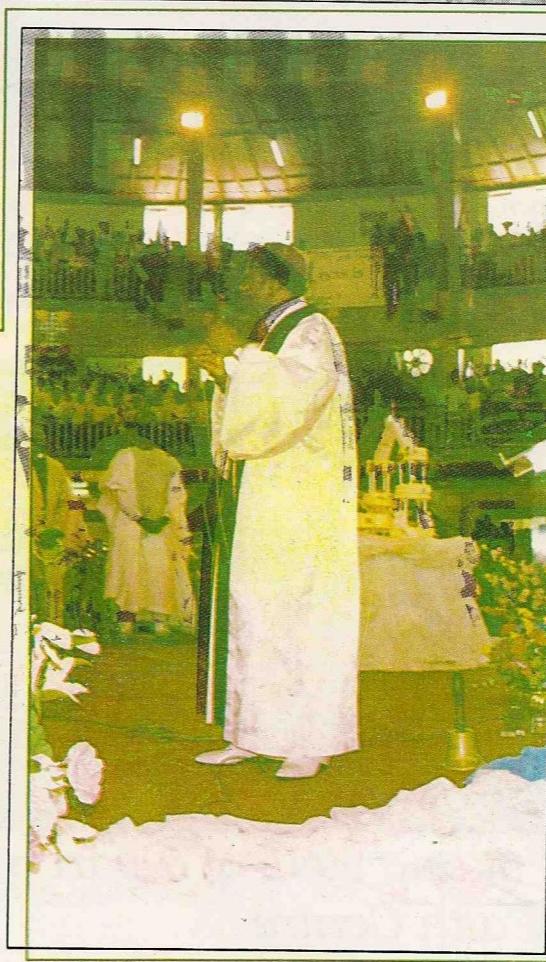
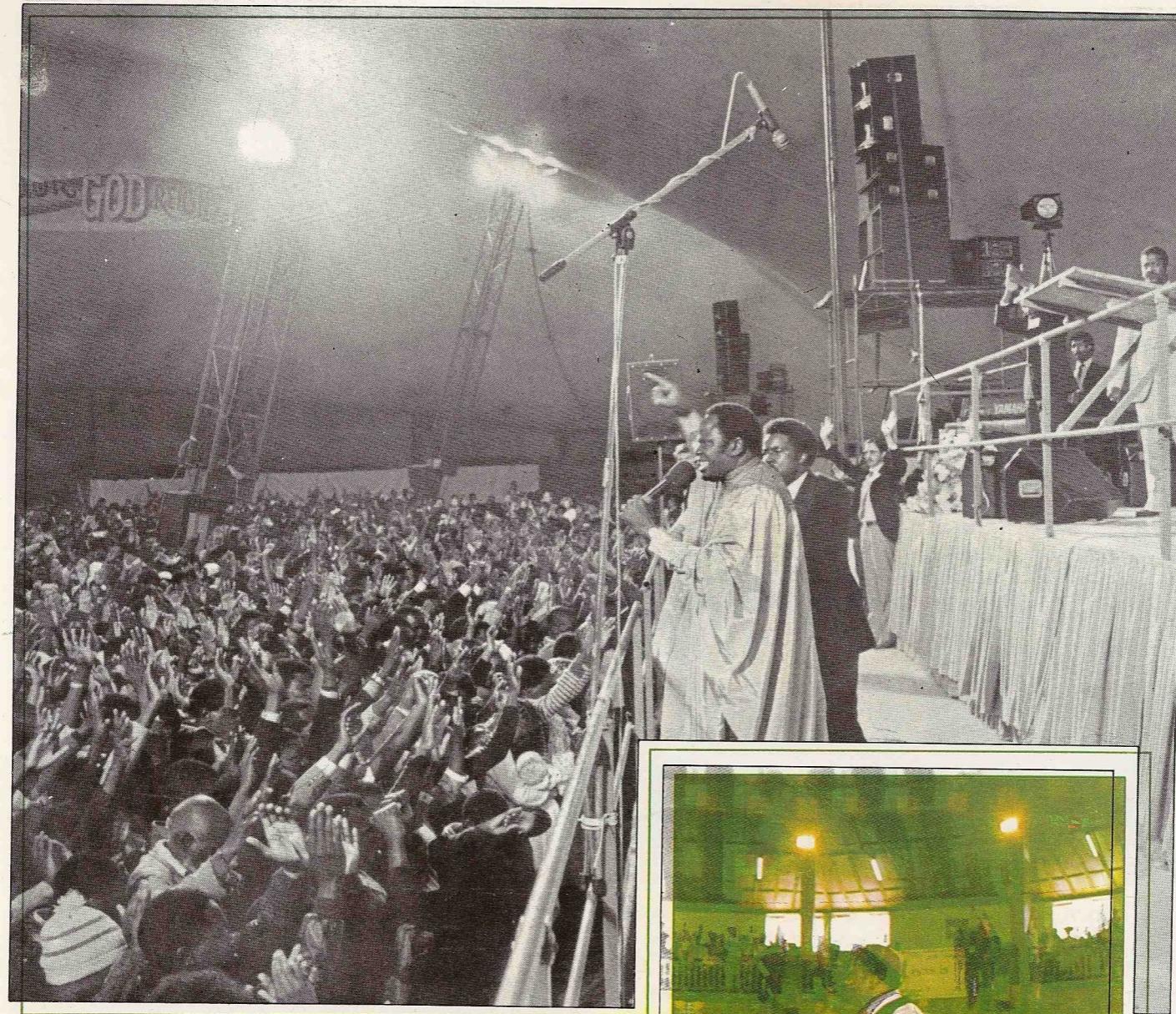
When the Miracle Centre auditorium became too small because of the increase of the number of worshippers, God gave to us a vision of the Faith Arena, whose initial size and shape you see in this photograph.



Asitting view of a part of the the Faith Centre.

But by the time it was finished for dedication, it had become a gigantic complex capable of seating between 15,000 to almost 20,000 worshippers. It was dedicated on the 2nd of November, 1986, with the following concluding prayers, "Let all visitors perceive through what they see - that if they hurt, You will help them; that if they are weak, You will hear them; And let them know that you love them, that they fit into your plan. We solemnly dedicate all of this holy sanctuary to Thee, for thy divine glory and for thy holy purpose; and we do this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who liveth, Who was dead and behold Who is alive forever more. Amen.

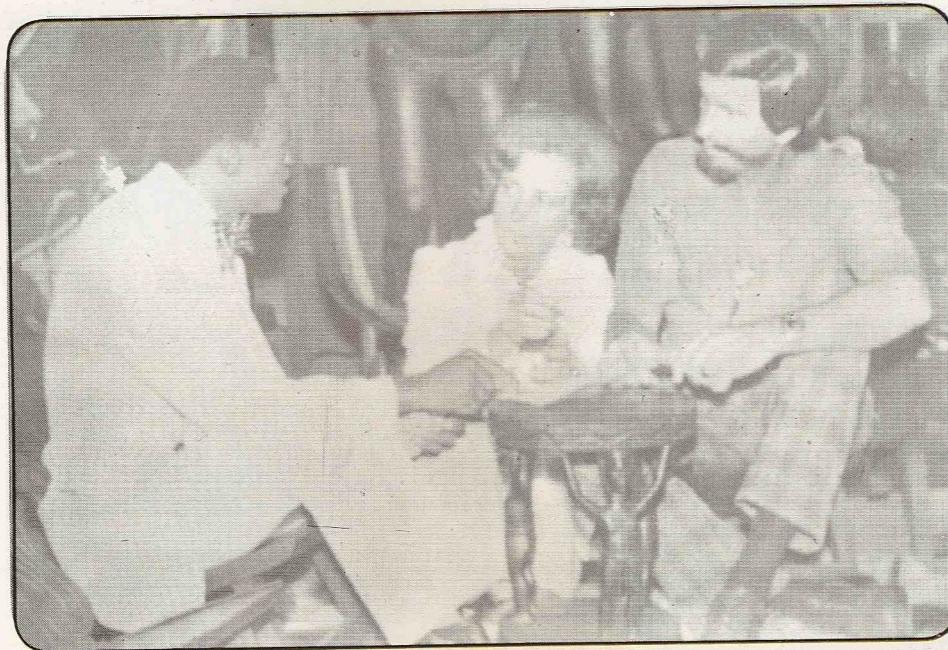
The Gospel To The Ends Of The World



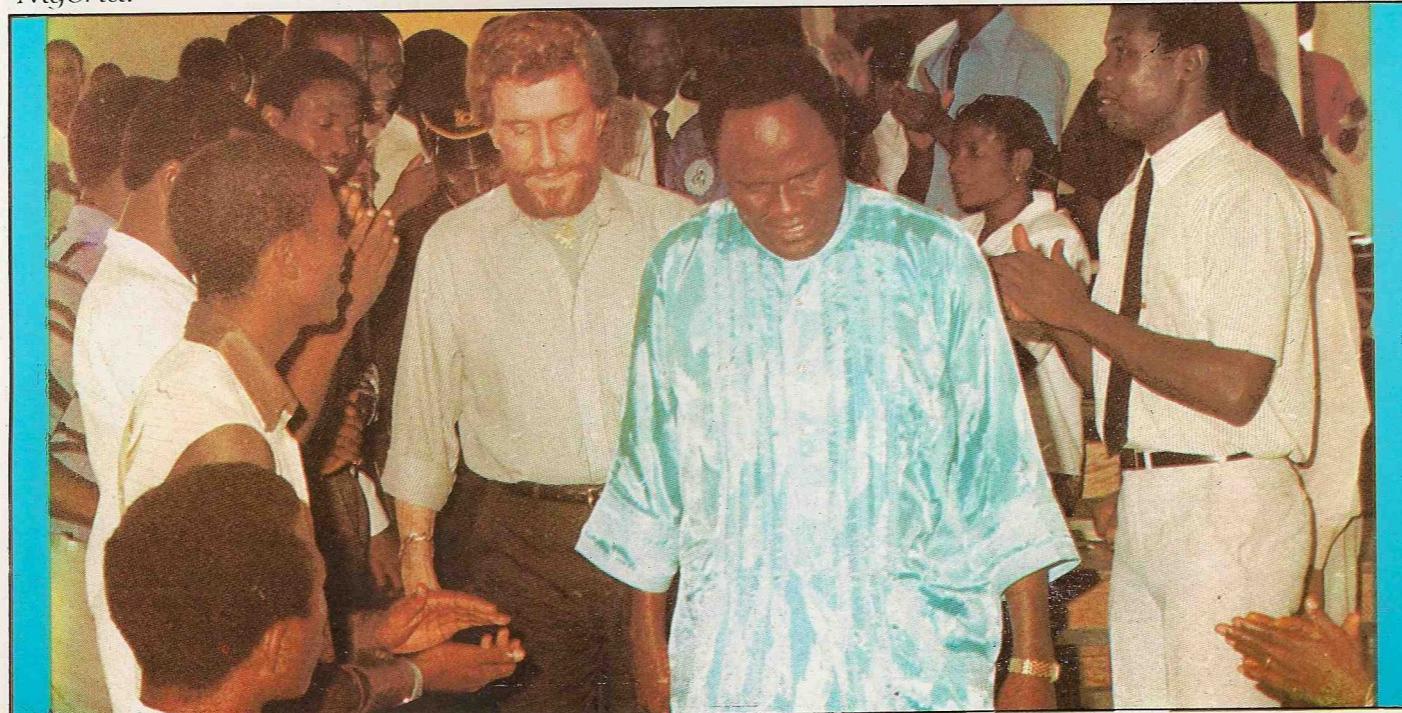
In 1986, I was in Harare, Zimbabwe, with Rev. Reinhard Bonke in the popular Fire Conference where people were ministered to inside one of the biggest tents ever erected.

I preached in the Faith Centre during my 51st Birthday Anniversary Celebration.

With The Osborns



villages around Benin City. But this book was different; it cited the rate at which the world population was growing and noted that the rate at which souls were being won to Christ was far below the population growth rate. The statistics were astonishing and they disturbed me greatly. Thenceforth, I started communication with Dr. T. L. Osborn by letters. I was particularly thrilled the first time I received a hand written reply from Dr. T. L. Osborn back home in Nigeria. But one day, Dr. and Mrs. T. L. Osborn came to Benin City for a crusade for which I was co-ordinator. Thereafter, we developed a very strong father-son relationship that has lasted until today. And I have learnt a lot from the Osborns since our first meeting. Here the Osborns and myself seat to examine some African works of art in a craft shop in Benin City, Nigeria.



Dr. T. L. Osborn received a royal welcome when he came to Nigeria in May, 1989 for the Idahosa World Outreach School of Ministry

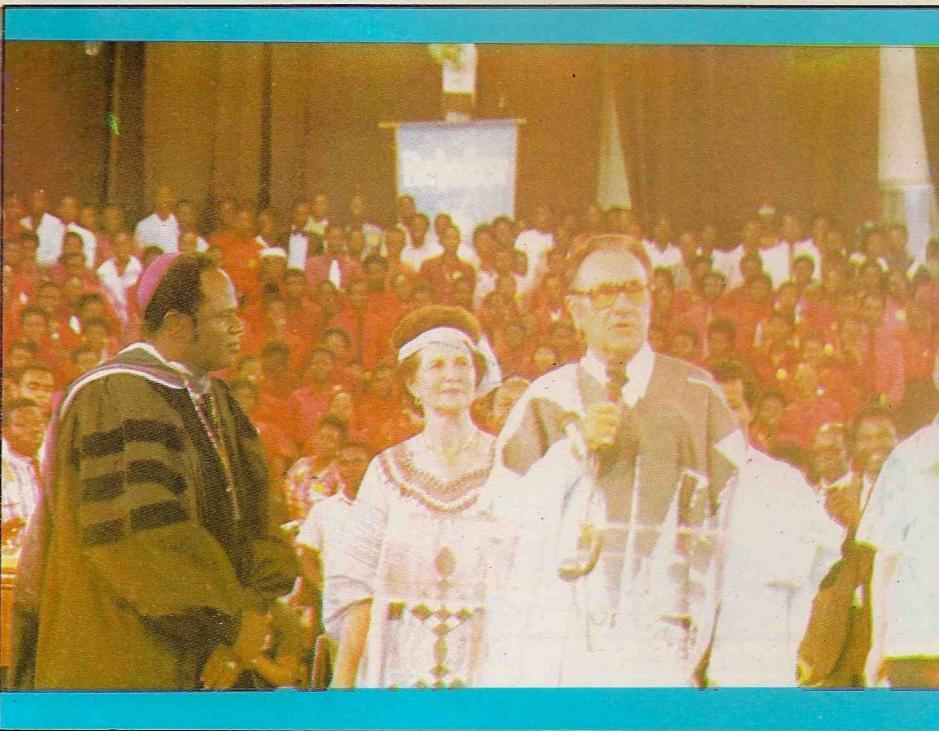
As a student in Christ For The Nations Institute in Dallas, I use to have invitations to preach on weekends in several churches in areas around Dallas. One weekend in Ada, Oklahoma, somebody gave to me a book about World Evangelism written by Dr. T. L. Osborn. I was quite familiar with this man's writings as for several years I had ordered tracts from Dr. T. L. Osborn and distributed same on my preaching trips to the

on my preaching trips to the

Oral Roberts In Nigeria

Our ministry has attracted and has had the privilege of hosting many God-honoured ministers of the Gospel in its brief history. One of such ministers, is Dr. and Mrs. Oral Roberts.

Dr. Oral Roberts is the President of the Oral Roberts University (ORU). He is photographed here as he ministered to the audience in Faith Centre. He was visiting the Faith Arena for the first time in 1988.



The very next year, 1989, Evangelist Richard Roberts, the Executive Vice-President of ORU paid us a visit in Benin City to open the Faith Medical Clinic.

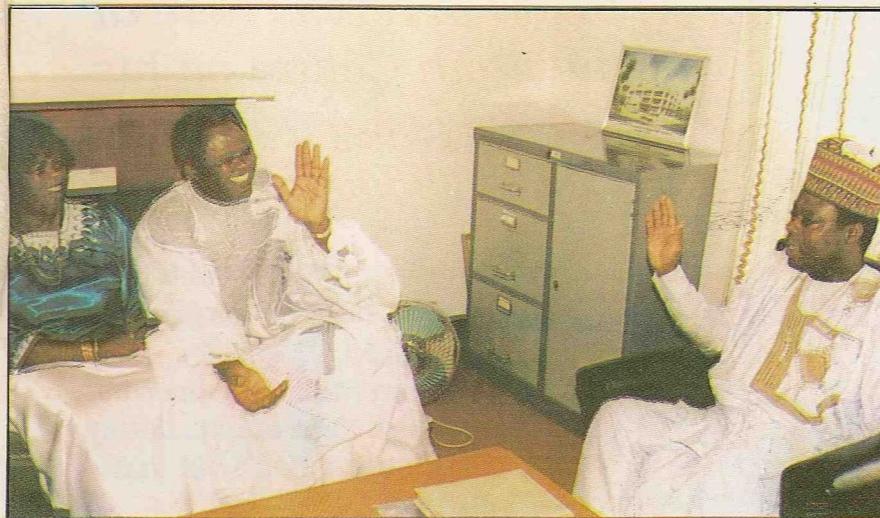
Round the world with the Gospel of Truth



On my Evangelistic journey to Mombasa, I met a missionary in Kenya, Bud Oikler.



While conducting a crusade in Zambia, in 1988, I found time to pay a visit to Mr. Gray Zulu, the Secretary General of the Zambia ruling party



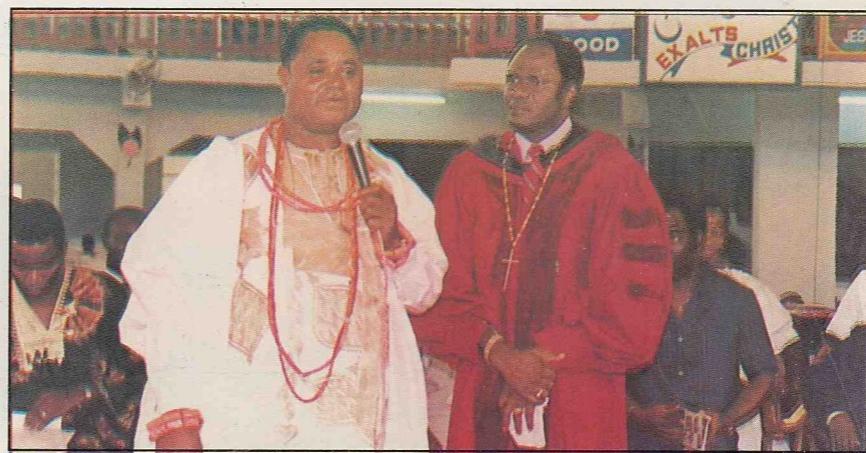
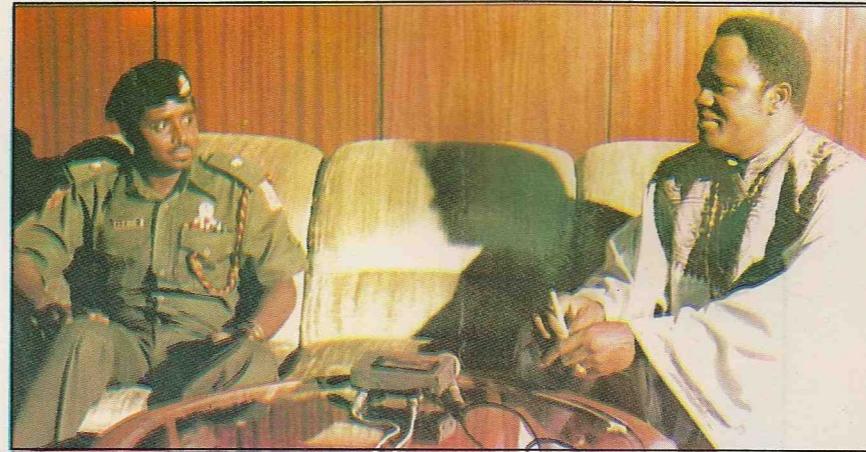
JMy wife and I also paid a visit to the Nigeria Ambassador to Zambia

In 1989 I went to the Island-nation of Trinidad and Tobago for a crusade. In the course of my stay in that country, I paid a visit to the Lord-Mayor of the Port of Spain, the Capital City of the country. He presented us gifts to bring back home.

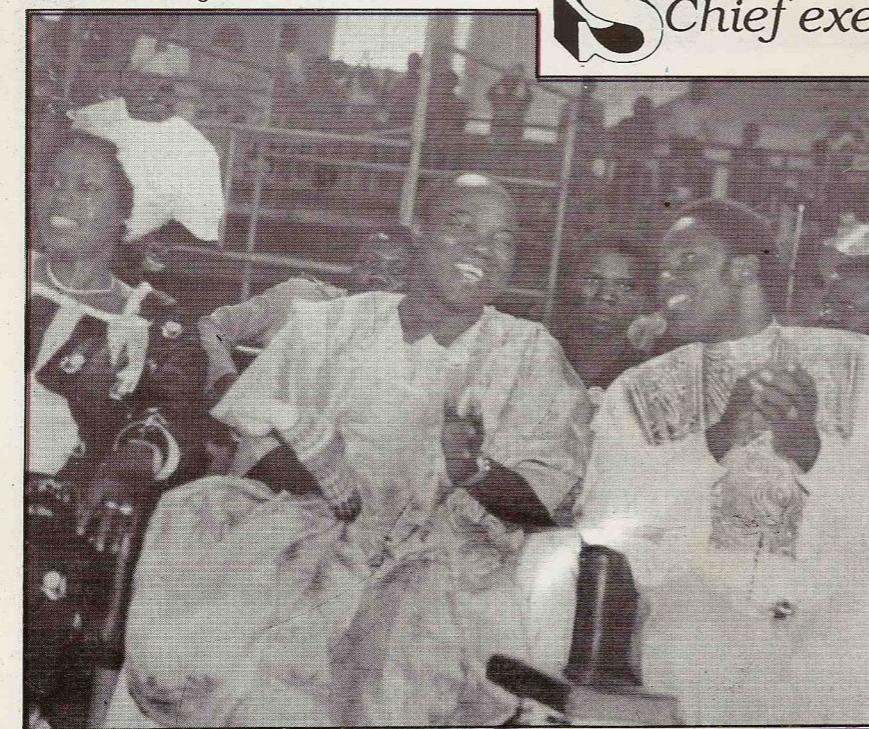
History was made on Sunday 18th November, 1989, at Eboressa village in Ishan, Bendel State, Nigeria when a child who had fled to the village for refuge about 49 years before returned to it as a man in the name of Archbishop Benson Idahosa.

At the age of two, I was so sickly that my fainting spells almost became a part of my normal life. For that reason, I was rejected by my father who considered me a disgrace to the family, and he ordered my mother, Sarah, to throw me into a rubbish heap, and leave me there to die, never to be rescued. My mother was warned that any attempt to rescue me would cause her her marriage. However, my pitiful wailing was more than my mother could bear. She rescued me and fled her matrimonial home to her parents village Eboressa for refuge. Then as a child I was hardly known. But 49 years later, the welcome address presented to me by the Eternal Hope Gospel Mission, Eboressa read, "Most honourable Pastor, Reverend, Doctor, Professor, Prophet, Apostle B. A. Idahosa, President and Founder, Chairman - board of Governors ..." and the list of appellations went on and on. I took time on that occasion to consider the goodness of the Lord to me. From a very humble beginning, His mercy and favour has lifted me to become a voice for Christ in the Kingdom of God on earth. The Gospel has taken me to the presence of kings, presidents, governors, ministers and so on. When I conducted a crusade in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno State in Nigeria, I took time off to pay a visit to Governor Mumuni of Borno State, and here we are, considering some facts about my mission to Borno State, Nigeria.

Honourable, Pastor, Doctor, Professor, Apostle, Prophet...

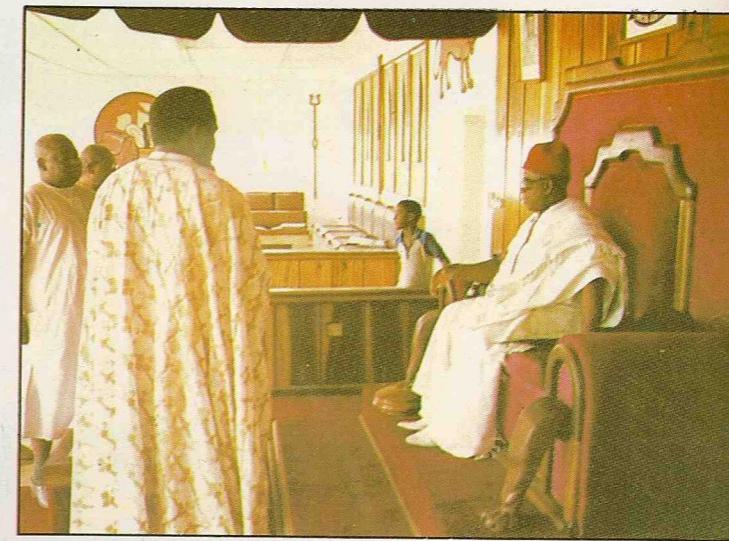


Sir Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion, the Chief executive of Okada Airlines and Okada group of companies is a personal friend and was here at the Faith Centre on his thanksgiving day.



During the 1986 Church of God Mission International convention, Brigadier J. T. Useni, the then military Governor of Bendel State, Nigeria was at the Faith Centre to fellowship with other believers

Raised to minister to kings and princes



When the Faith Miracle Centre was dedicated on 2nd November, 1986, a lot of dignitaries were present, among whom were the Omo N'Oba Erediauwa, Oba of Benin and Col. John Mark Ineinger, the then Governor of Bendel State, Nigeria.

Here in Dodan Barracks, Nigeria's State House, I share a joke with General Babangida, President and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, when the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) had a meeting with him.

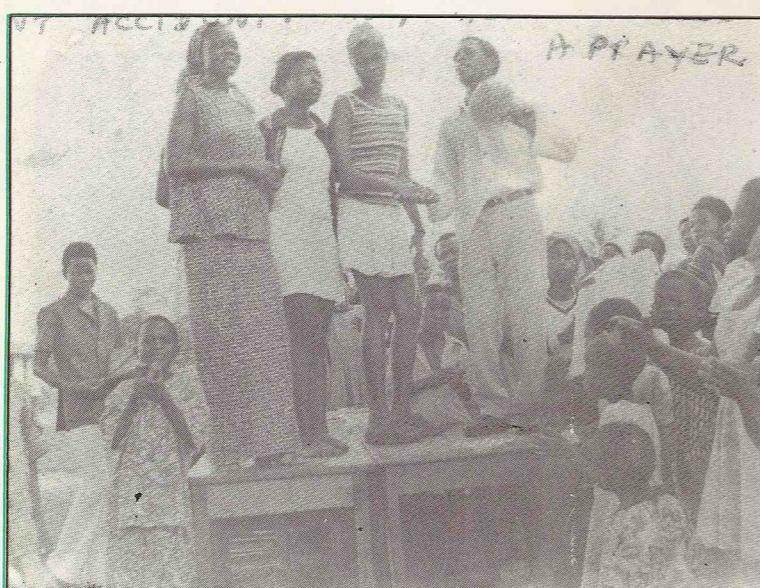
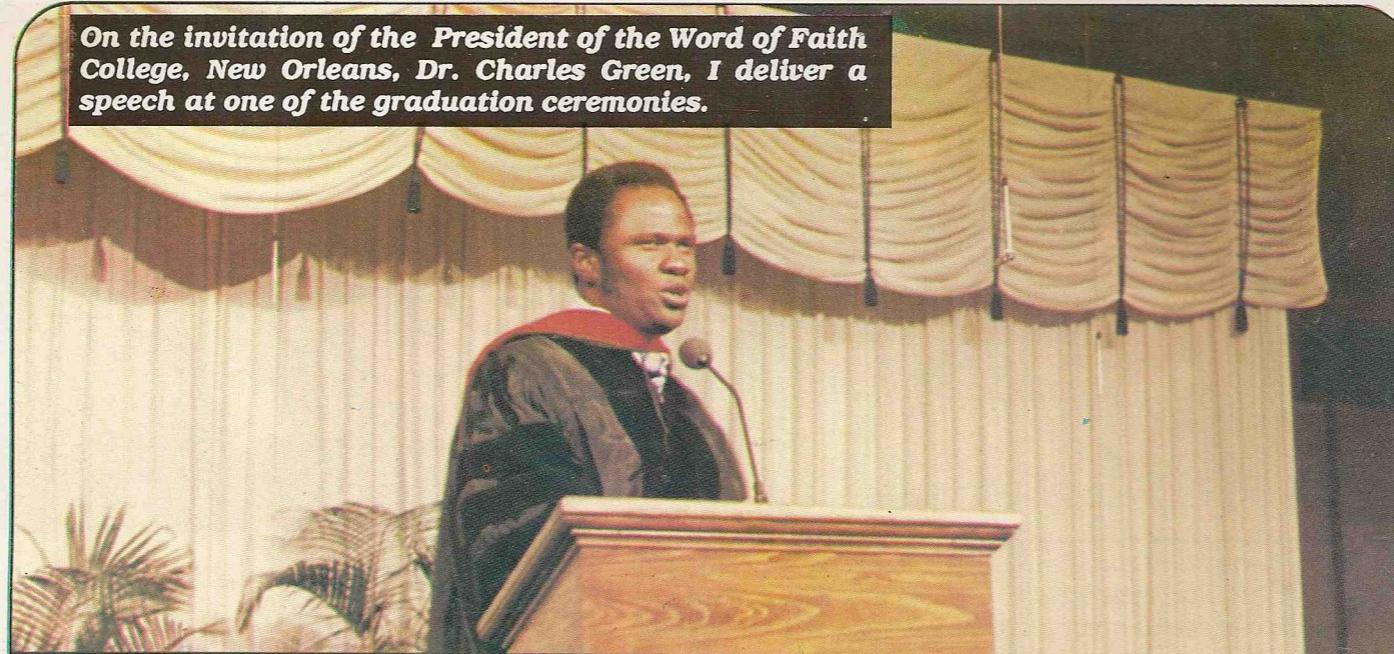


Among the traditional kings to whose palaces I have taken the Gospel was the traditional ruler of Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

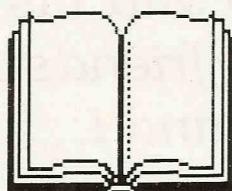
The retired Nigeria Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo and his wife Linda, are friends of Dr. Margaret and I.

Jesus is Lord over all circumstances

On the invitation of the President of the Word of Faith College, New Orleans, Dr. Charles Green, I deliver a speech at one of the graduation ceremonies.



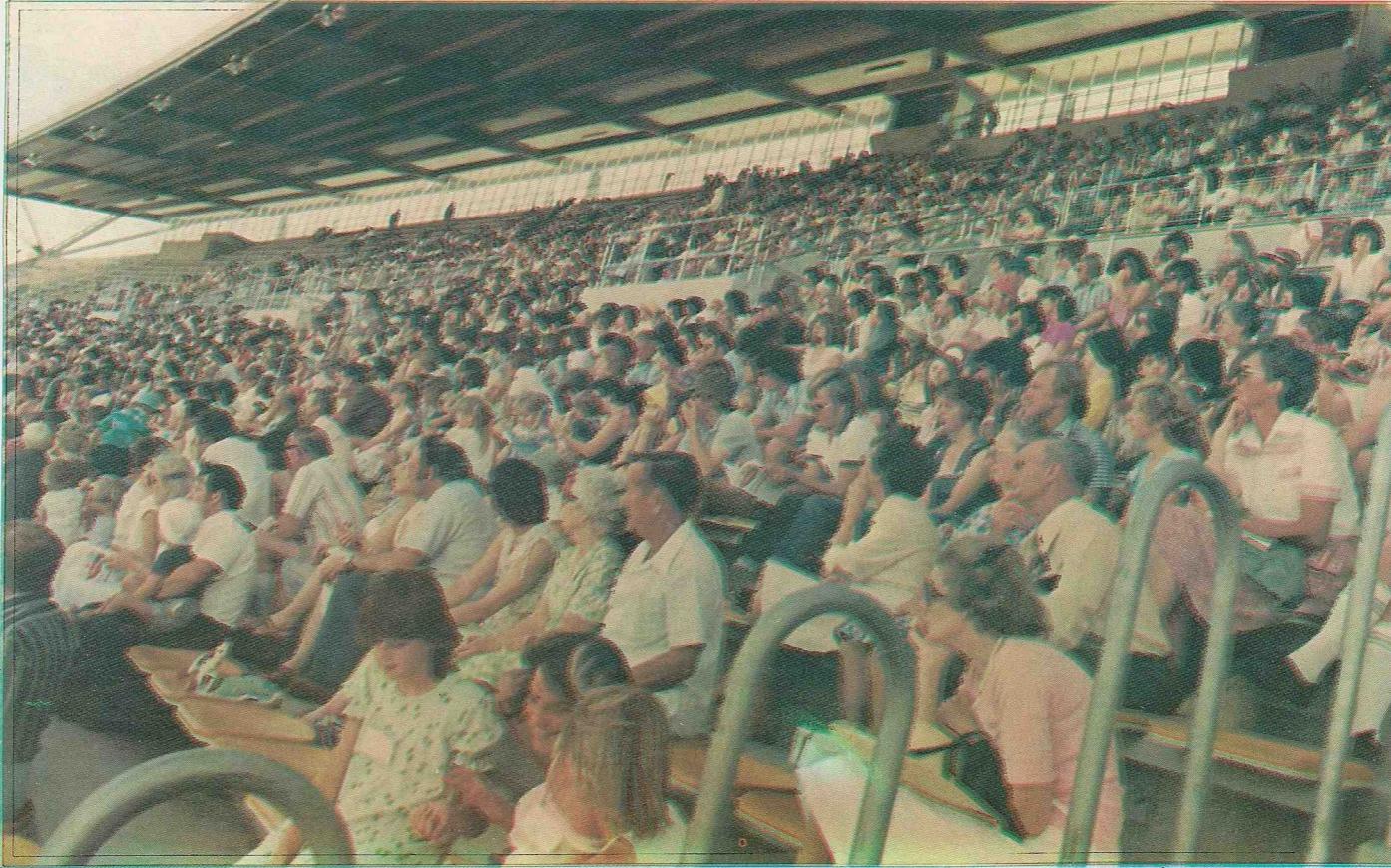
From relatively simple beginning , our evangelistic ministry has grown tremendously. And always, our prayer of faith has been followed by testimonies. These ones who suffered waist and leg pains as a result of an accident, testify of immediate healing after our prayer of faith.



In 1986, Dr. Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, were chief guest speakers in our Church of God Mission International Convention.

He has broken the gates of brass...

The Lord has on several occasions opened for us evangelistic doors even to the former Iron Curtain countries. In my first crusade in Sweden, I had the opportunity to preach through radio to the U.S.S.R.



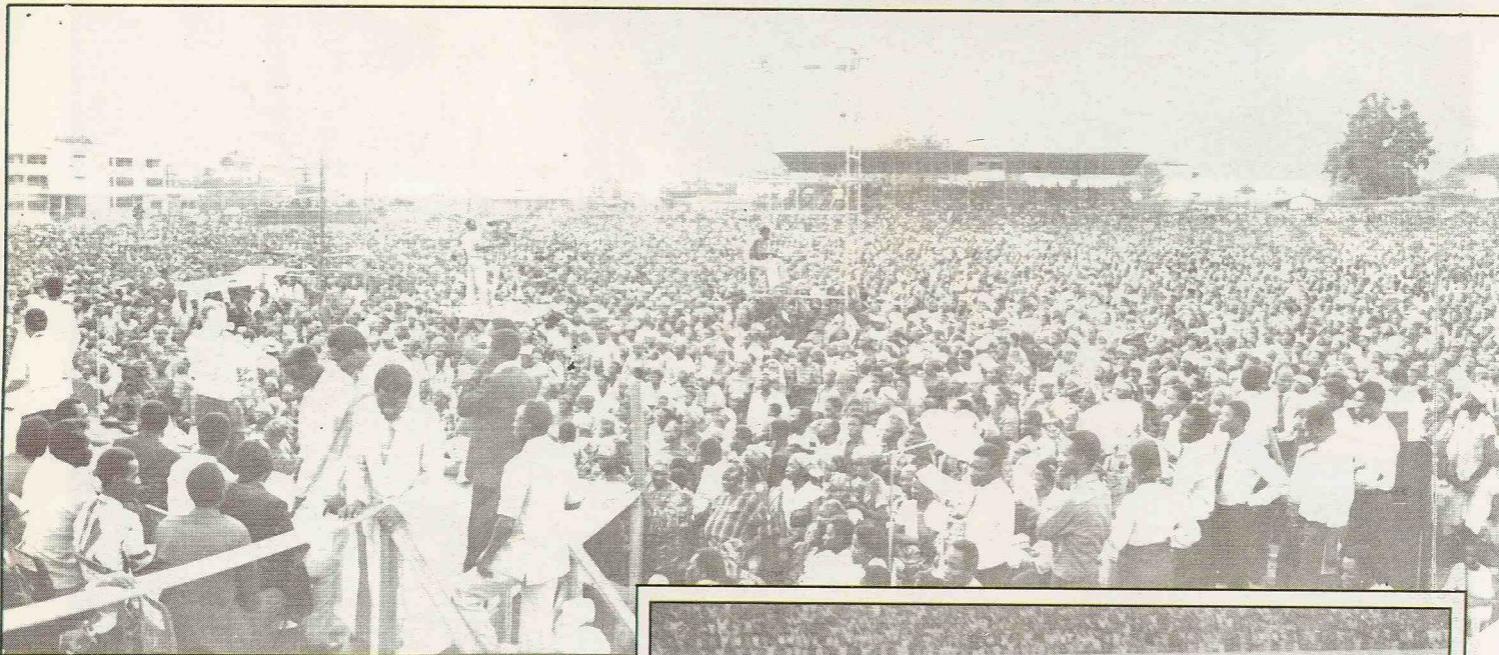
A cross section of a crowd during one of my oversea evangelistic outreaches.

He that winneth souls is wise

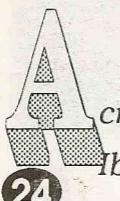


In 1985, we held a crusade which many styled the crusade of the century, in Lagos, the Capital City of Nigeria. Over one million people came to hear the Gospel preached, and about sixty percent of the number confessed Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

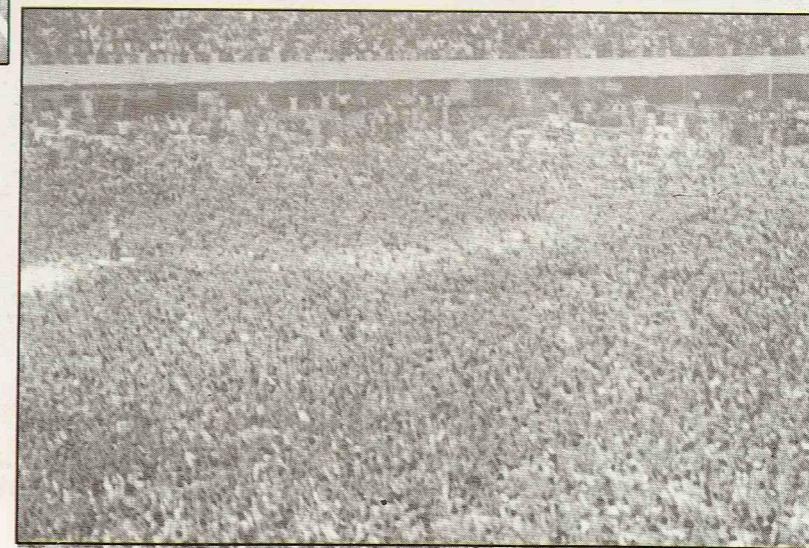
In one of our crusades in Glasgow, I took time off to minister to the sick.



In our Ibadan crusade in 1989, thousands gathered, defying rain, political obstacles, and distance, to hear the Gospel preached.

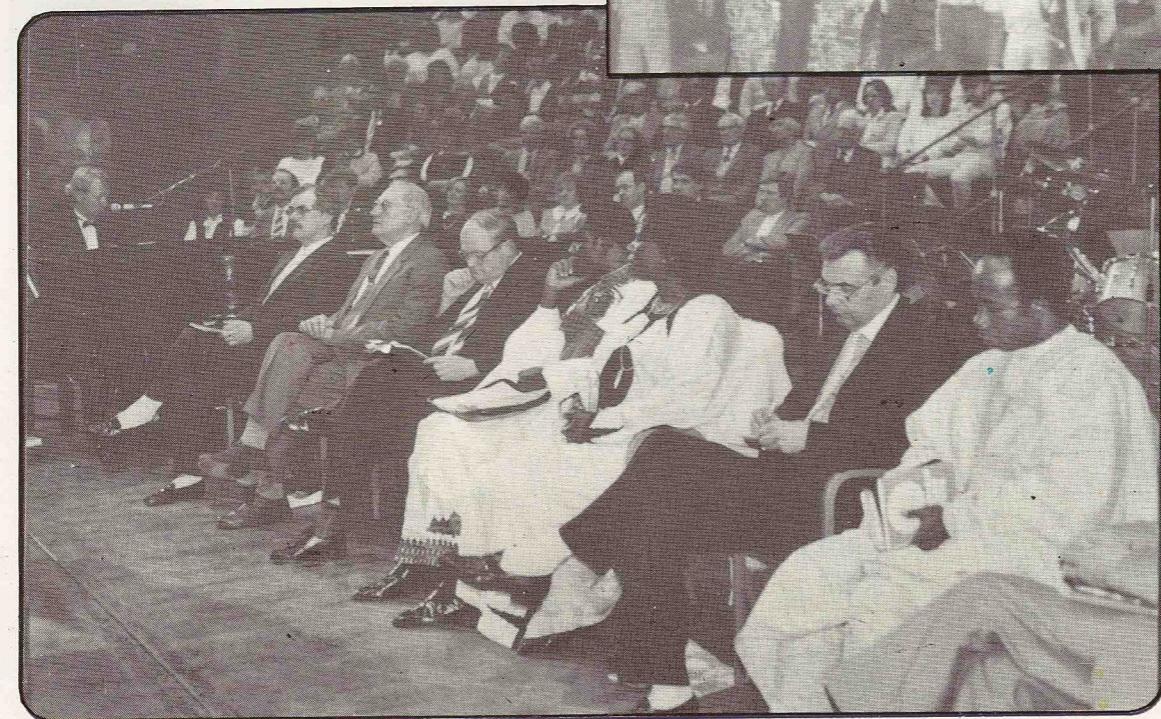
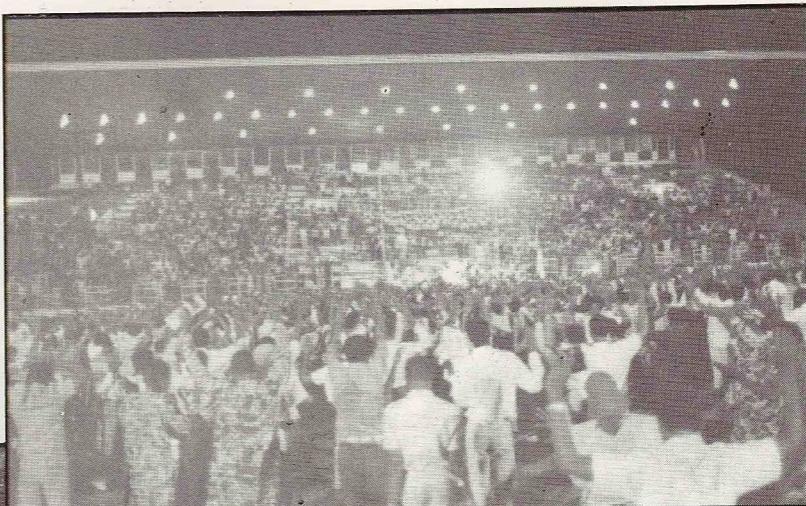


cross section of the 1989
Ibadan Crusade.



Across the U.K Like a Spiritual Tornado

In 1987, thousands thronged the Ahmadu Bello Stadium to hear the Gospel preached at our crusade in Kaduna, Nigeria.

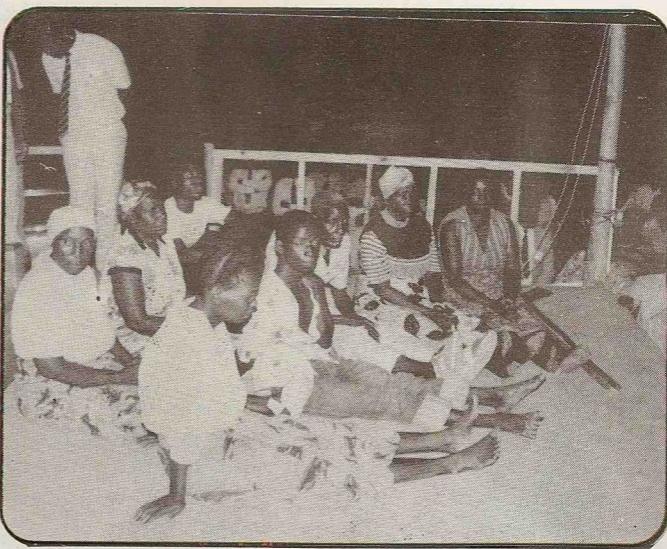


I ministered the Word to audience in Kessington Temple in London

Archbishop Benson Idahosa sweeps across the United Kingdom like a spiritual Tornado" was the caption of the story concerning our U.K. crusade in August, 1985 in one of Britain's daily newspapers. Here is one of the groups to which I ministered at that time.



Nigeria for Jesus!

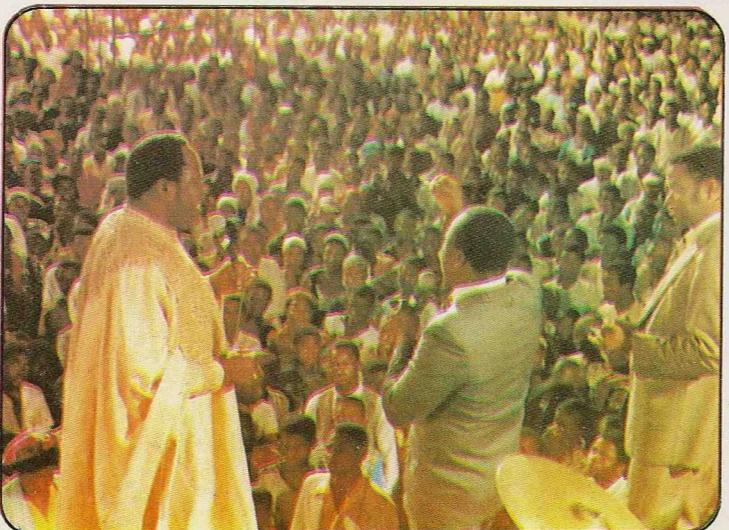


Port Harcourt crusade in 1986.

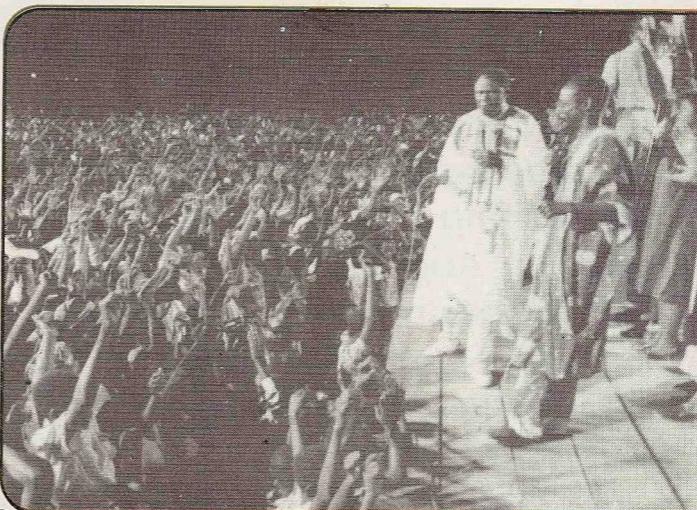


In 1988, we held another crusade in Port Harcourt. Here is a cross section of the crowd at the Port Harcourt Civic Centre.

Kano State of Nigeria Christian Corps (NYSC) ministering in spiritual songs to prepare the hearts of the people for the Word during our Kano crusade

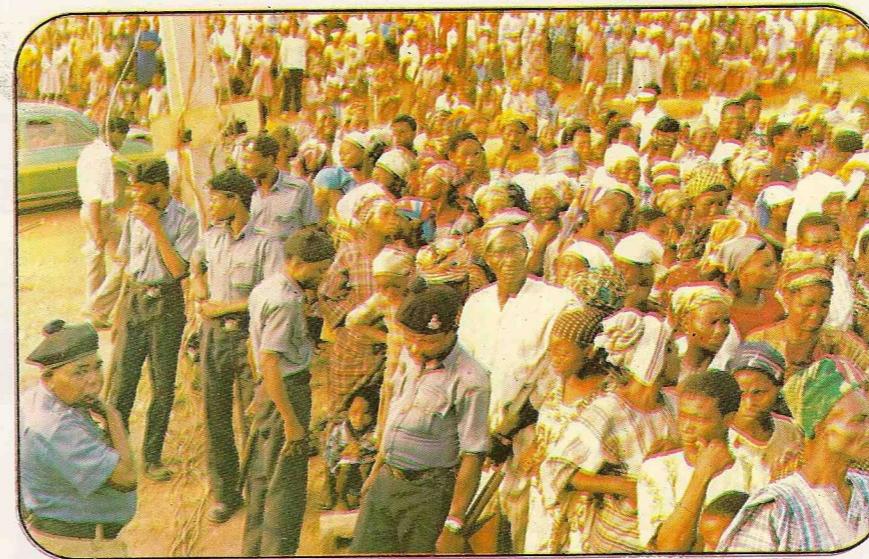


26 Our Umuahia Crusade in 1988

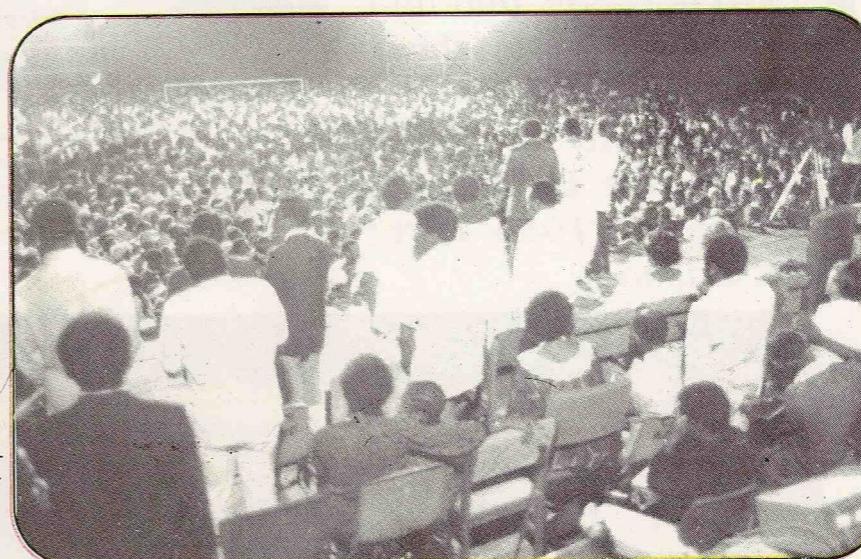


Our Crusade in Ughelli, 1989.

Here, police wait to control the crowd in one of our local crusades where more than two hundred people were electrocuted. A heavy-duty live cable which was laid on the ground to electric tubes had some of its insulation off. And when somebody stepped on the naked live cable, all those standing shoulder to shoulder with the fellow were electrocuted and fell to the ground. There was pandemonium. Finally, I got to where these people were laid out and commanded them all to rise in the Name of Jesus. Guess what? They all did rise! Need I say that after that the crusade took a new dimension?



Dr. Kenneth Copeland and myself ministering together at Warri in 1986.



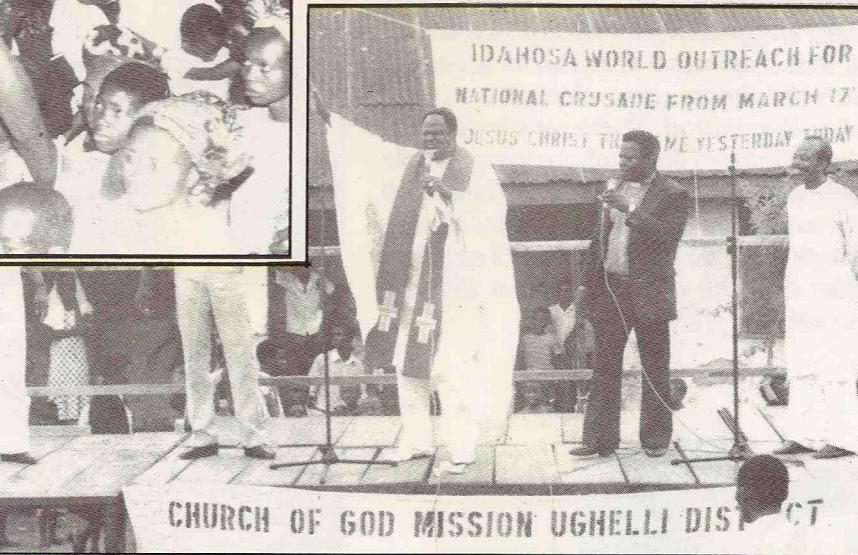
The Lord once told me that there were many pastors that do not have pastors, and that I should do something to help such and become a pastor to them. Accordingly, I initiated a series of seminars that have now crystallized into the yearly Schools of Wisdom in America, and Schools of Ministry in Nigeria, meant especially for the training of ministers already in the field. Here is a cross section of participants in the 1989 School of Ministry in Benin City, Nigeria.

Like Corn ready for harvest

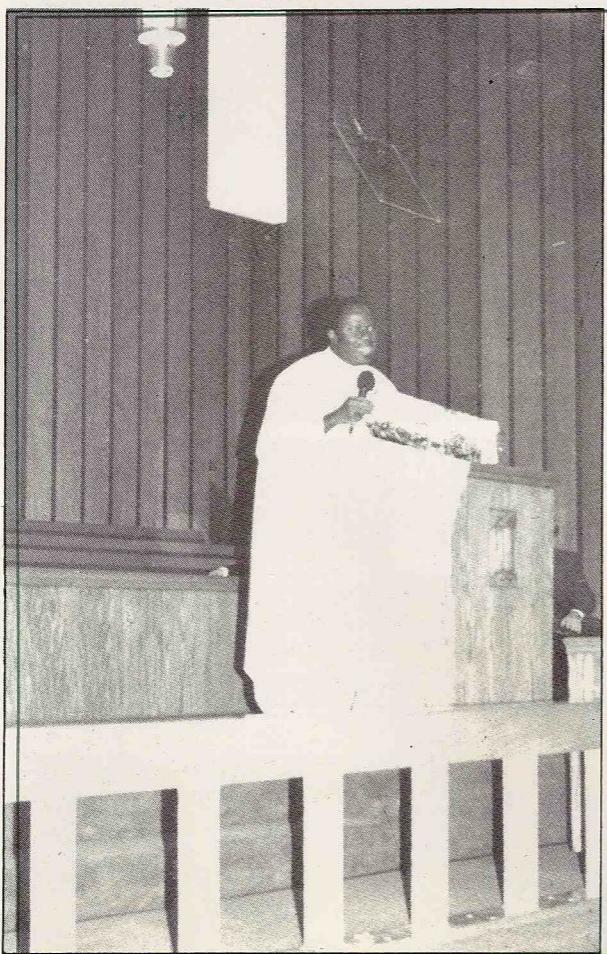


Preaching the Word with Anointing.

I rejoice when I see the sea of heads, and numerous hands that wave like corn ready for harvest, in our crusade grounds. Here is such a scene in our 1984 Port Harcourt crusade.

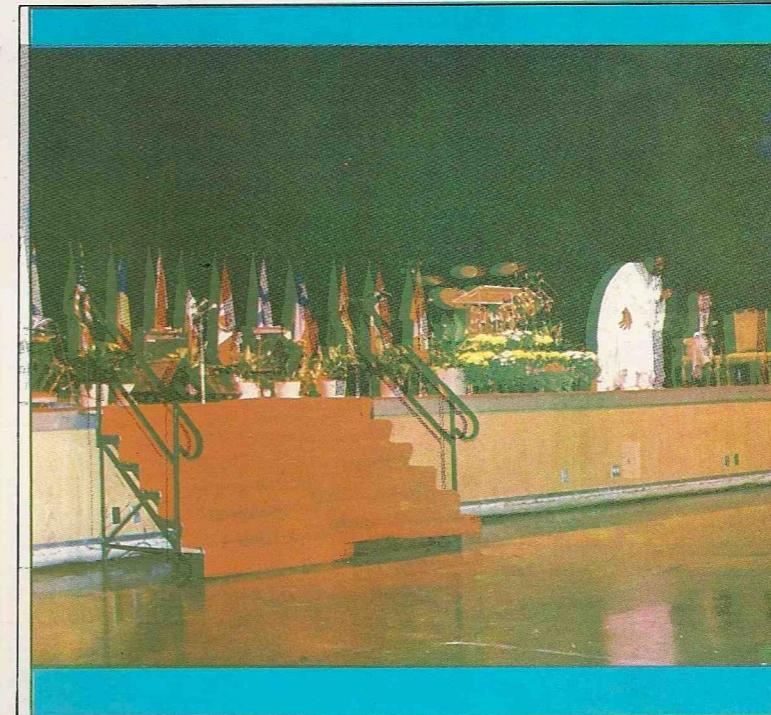


Anointed To Preach



M

inistering at the Home Wood Church , Chicago in 1986.



A

At Minneapolis, U.S.A. in 1986



M

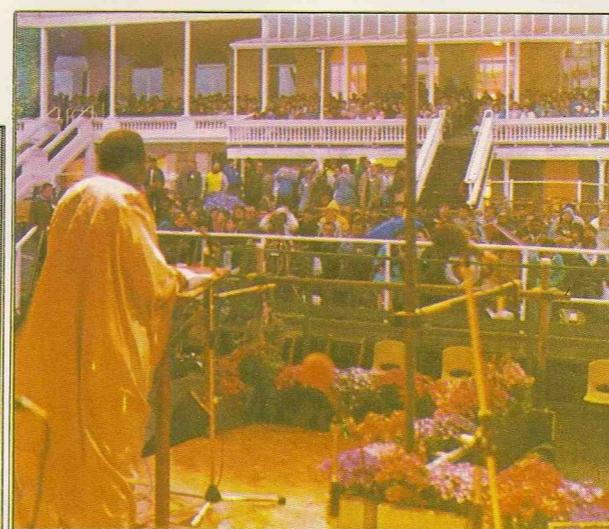
y audience at Seoul Korea

Anointed To Teach

Our crusade team at the Zambian airport during one of our evangelistic journeys.

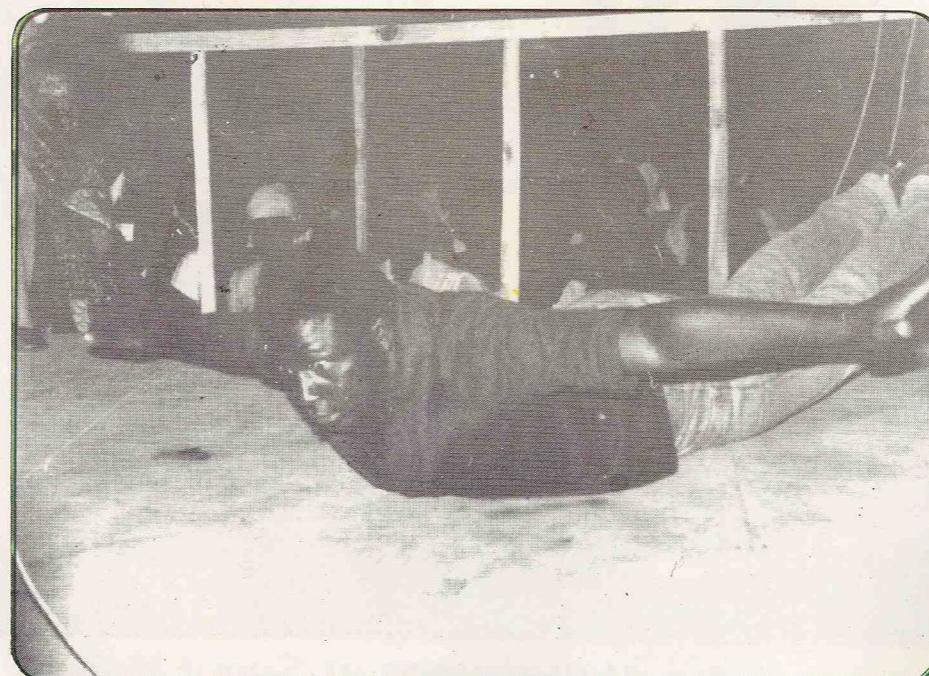


A section of my audience as I preached the Gospel in Cardiff, United Kingdom.



Preaching the Gospel at Liverpool, U.K.

A devil-possessed man falls down as I commanded the devil to come out



I will take sickness away from your midst

At a crusade in Liverpool, I told a lady who could not use her feet, "You can walk if you want to" and she walked! ▼

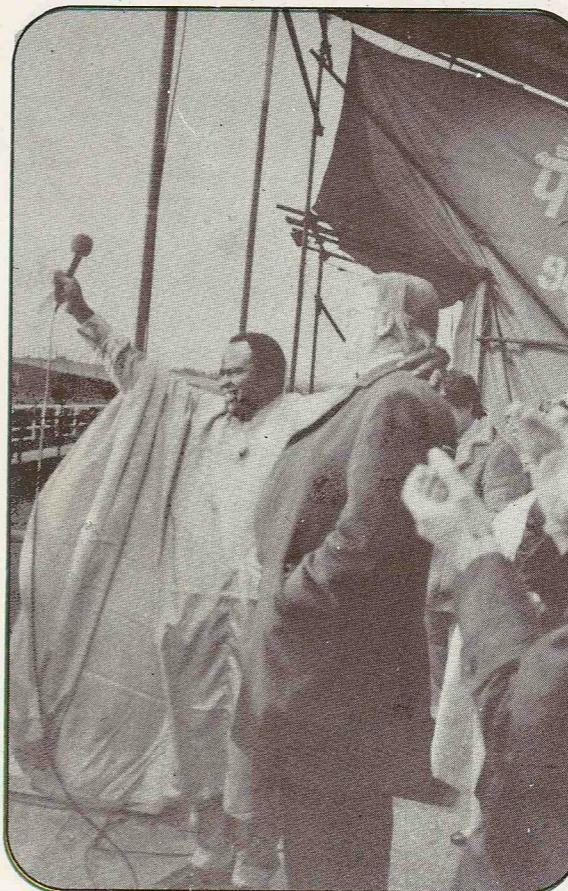


On Thursday night of May 14, 1987, Robert Eagling, a 13 year old boy was healed of asthma during our crusade in Liverpool.

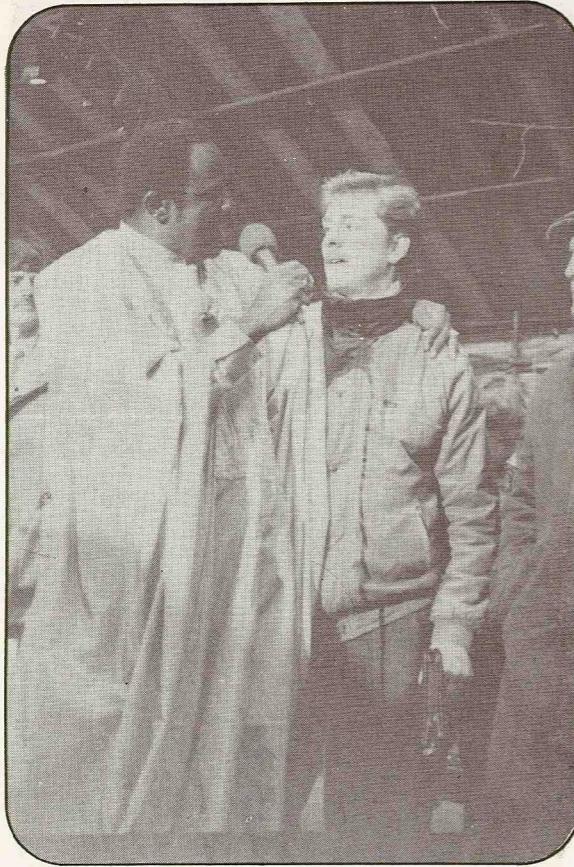


A blind man who began to see after I ministered to him, broke down in tears when his eyes were opened.

And on Friday, May 15, 1987, Cliff Smethurst, a patient who had had diabetes for 15 years was healed after I prayed for him in the Liverpool crusade.



I am the Lord that healeth Thee



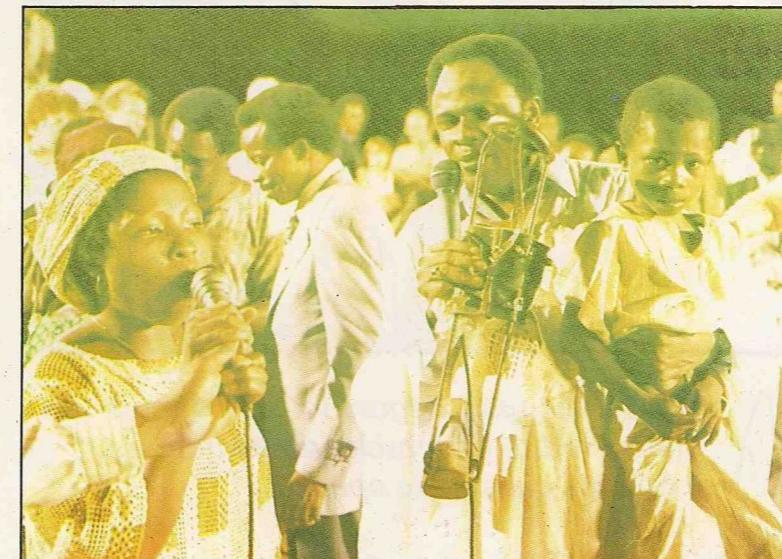
On the same Friday, Paul Mc Cormack (21 years) with a hairline fracture for 9 to 10 years and in pain and who could not touch his toes was healed at the same crusade after I prayed for him.



In Saturday 16th May, 1987, Jeffrey who was deaf from when he was 3 years old, here testifies with his mother of his healing after I had prayed for him the prayer of faith.



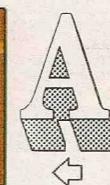
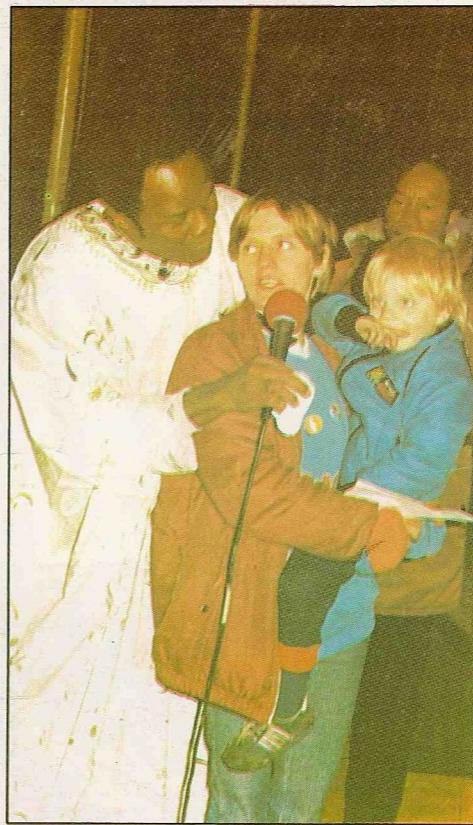
Glory to God! A healed woman pushes away, on a wheel-chair, her son who had pushed her on the same wheel-chair to Elim Pentecostal General Conference meeting in May 1986, after I prayed for her.



A woman testifies of the miraculous healing of her son during one of our crusades at Warri.

Healed By His Stripes

On Saturday 16th, May 1987, at the Liverpool crusade, Nicholas Purcell (3 years) who was almost completely blind saw

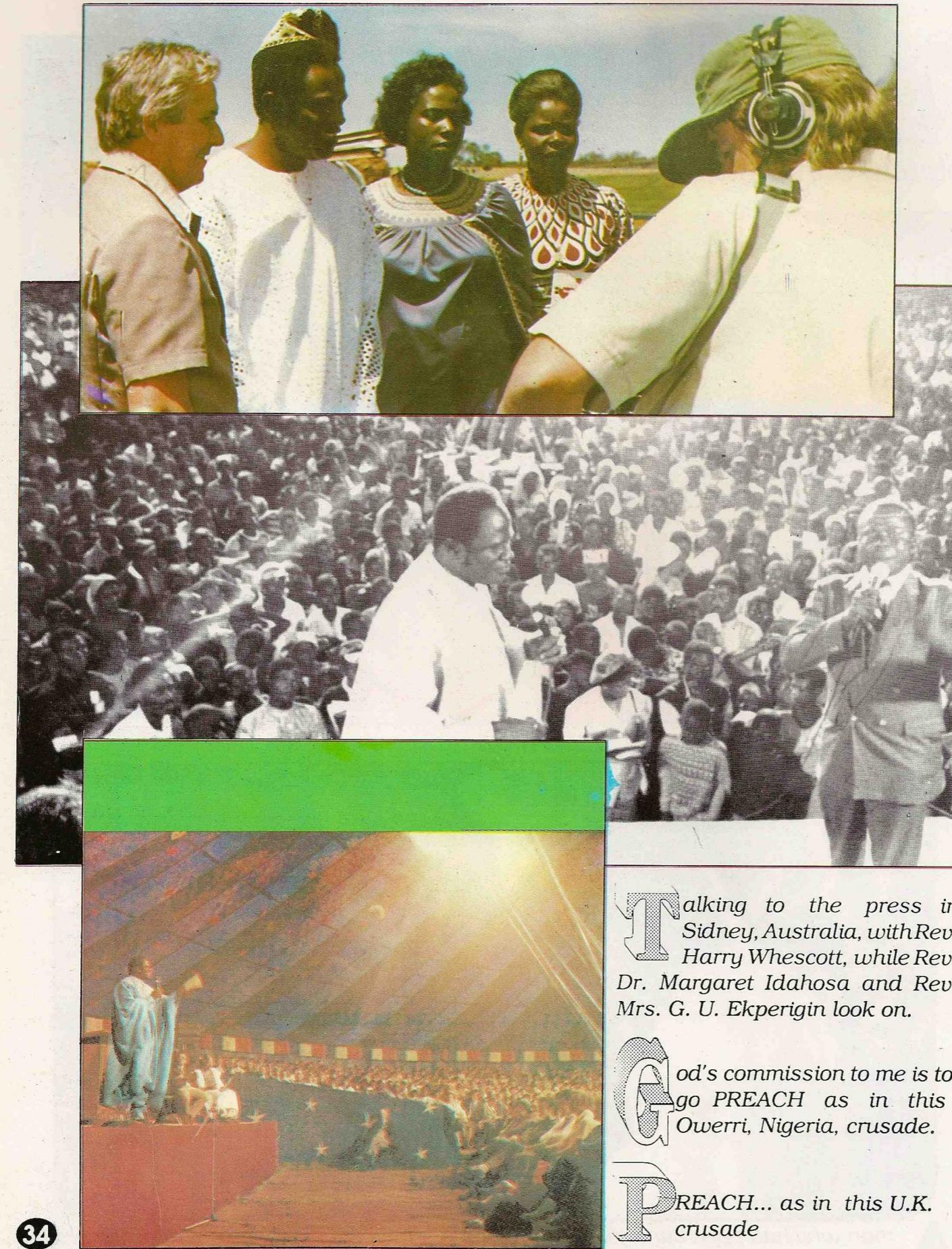


A man joyfully testifies of his healing after the prayer of faith.



A man who had been blind for 2 years after a stroke now sees clearly after the prayer of faith.

With Rev. Harry Whescott in Australia

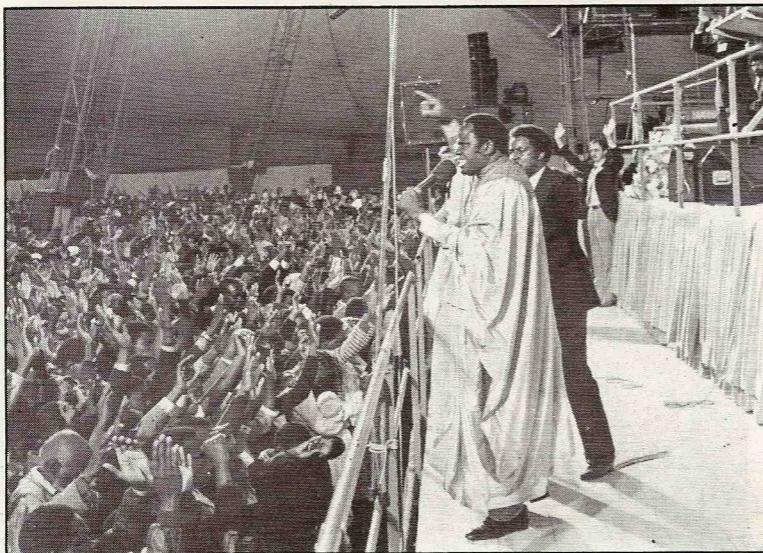


Talking to the press in Sidney, Australia, with Rev. Harry Whescott, while Rev. Dr. Margaret Idahosa and Rev. Mrs. G. U. Ekperigin look on.

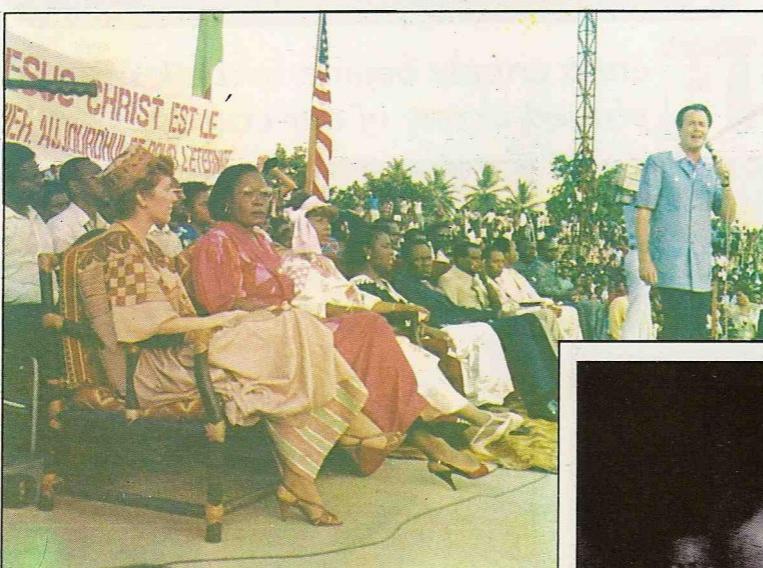
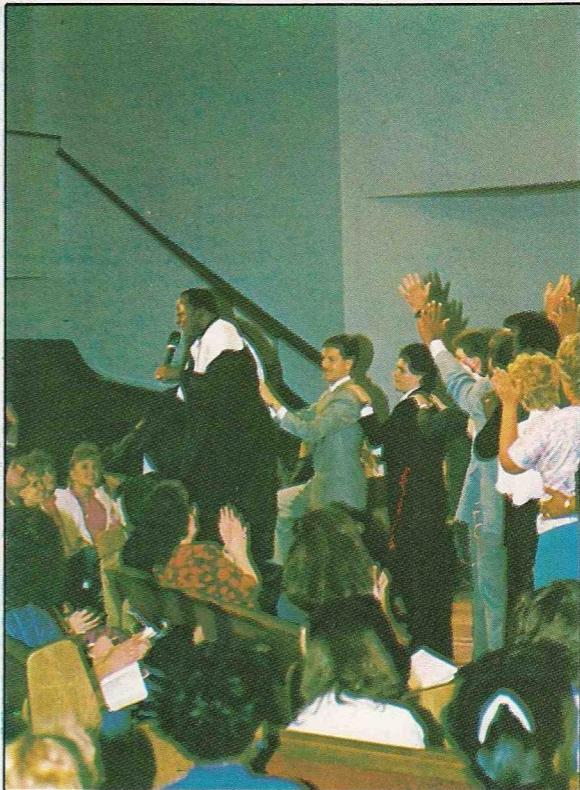
God's commission to me is to go PREACH as in this Owerri, Nigeria, crusade.

PREACH... as in this U.K. crusade

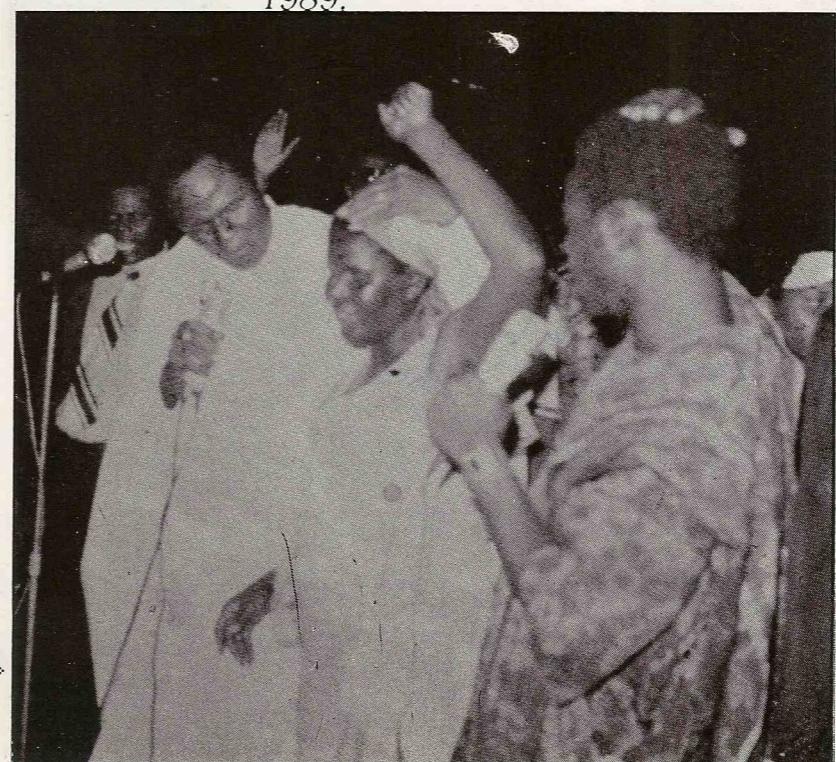
Team-Work Is A Key



PREACH..... as I am doing here with Reinhard Bonke



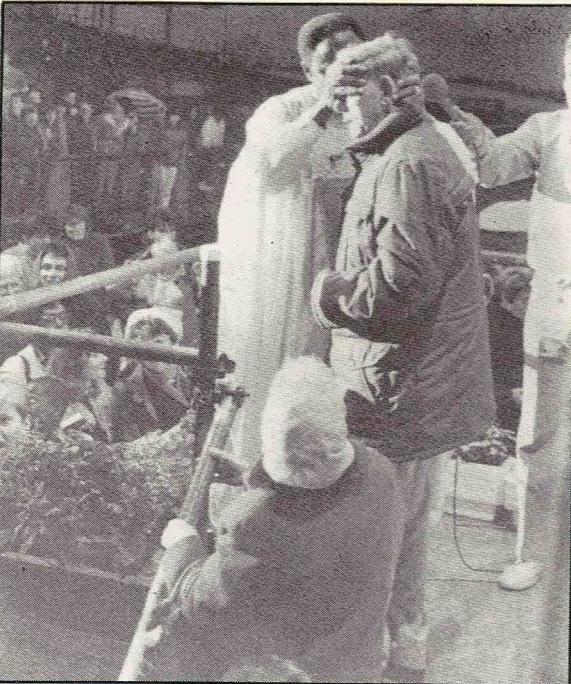
And God called me to TEACH as I am doing in this photograph at the Orlando Christian Centre with Rev. Benny Hinn in February, 1989.



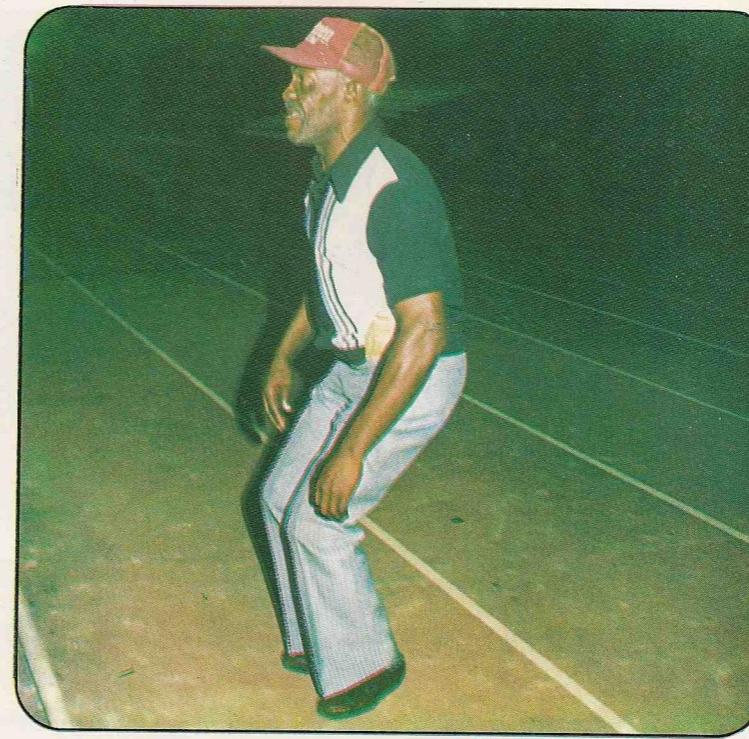
Always, I have encouraged team work. I find joy in working together with other men of God to fulfil God's commission to me to preach. Evangelist Richard Roberts and myself ministered together in a crusade in Zaire.

And God has given to me a commission to HEAL (pray for the sick to be well). After I prayed, a lady here testifies of the immediate healing of her hand which she had not been able to lift for a long time as a result of an injury which she had sustained.

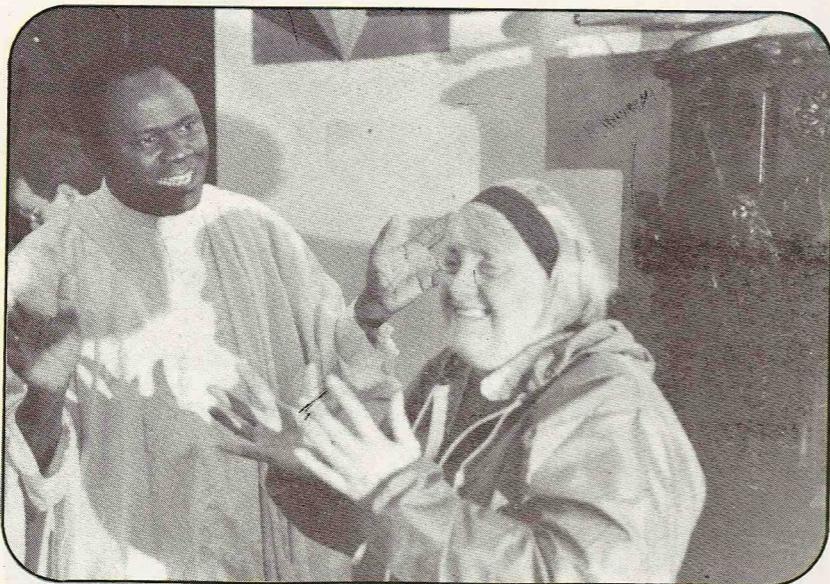
A galore of God's Miracles



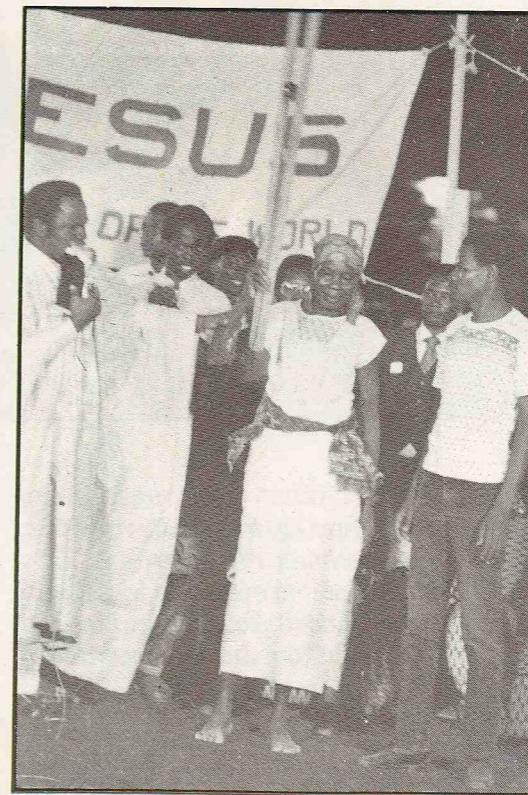
Leslie Campbell in Liverpool who could not walk for a whole year due to a stroke, received healing and walked before the crowd after I prayed.



Here a cripple begins to walk after I prayed in one of our crusades.



Molly Barrell (45 years) who was born blind in the left eye rejoices as sight came to her blind eye after I prayed. God is a good God all the time!

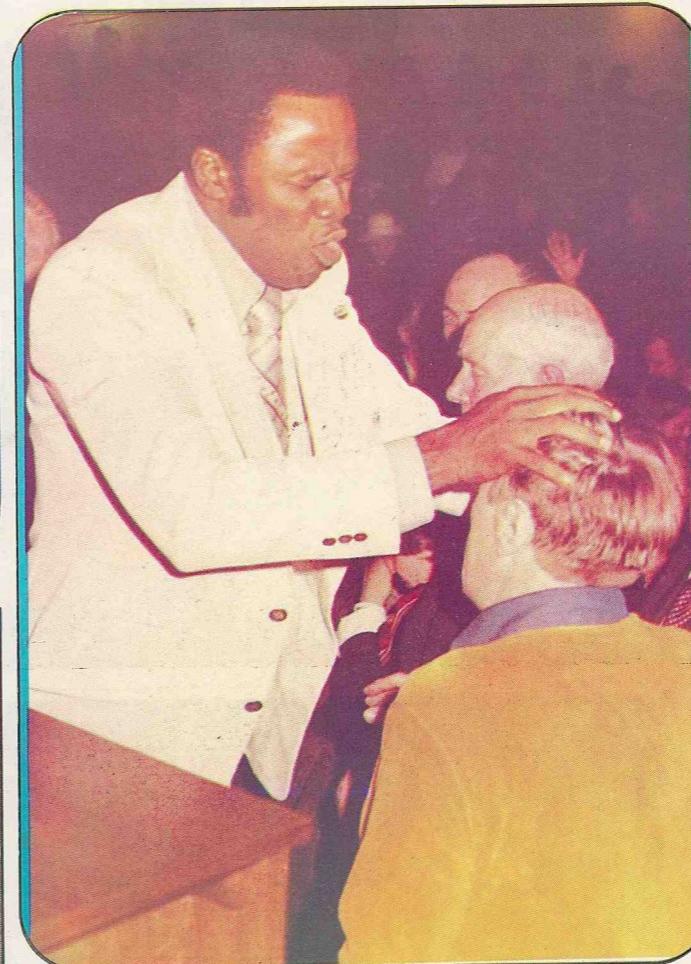


This woman had never walked without clutches, but in one of our crusades in Maiduguri, Nigeria in 1985, God took her clutches from her after I prayed and as you can see, she raised the clutches joyfully as evidence of her healing.

... went about healing all that were diseased.



A healed lady pushes away her wheel-chair after I prayed in one of our crusades in Canberra, Australia in 1979. The daughters could not cease wondering at the miracle which they had seen with their eyes. The photograph clearly tells the story.



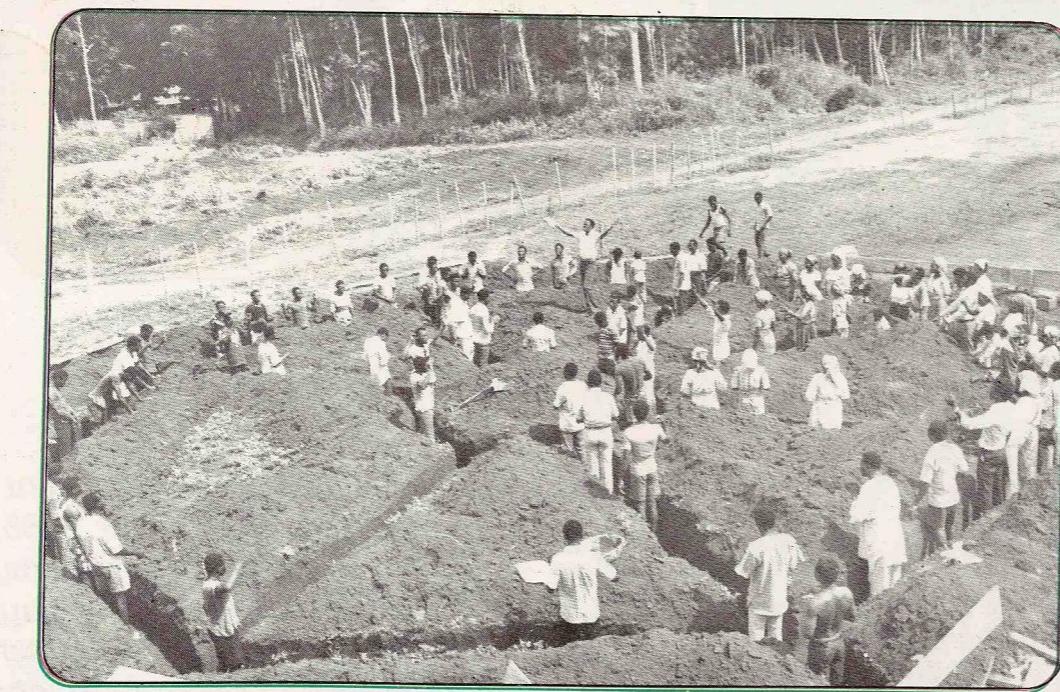
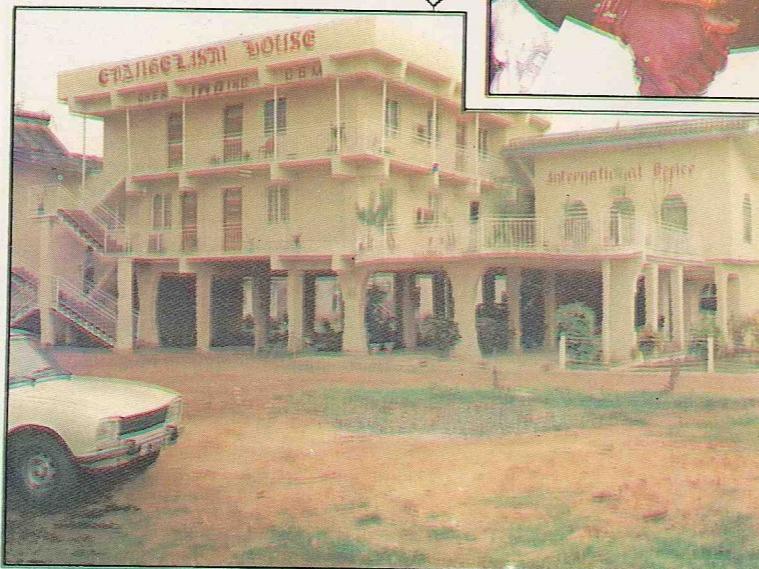
M
inistering to the sick.

A t a world mission conference at Minneapolis in September 1985, this lady was healed after my prayer of faith. Now she pushes away, by herself, the wheel chair in which she had been carried about for a long time.

The Metamorphosing of a Ministry

Praying for an African traditional ruler with his crown in his hands, in honour to God

From a simple local fellowship, our ministry of Church of God Mission International has metamorphosed into a mission of international repute with sophisticated modes of operation and modern functional departments. The International Office which houses my personal office is the hub of all operations in the mission.

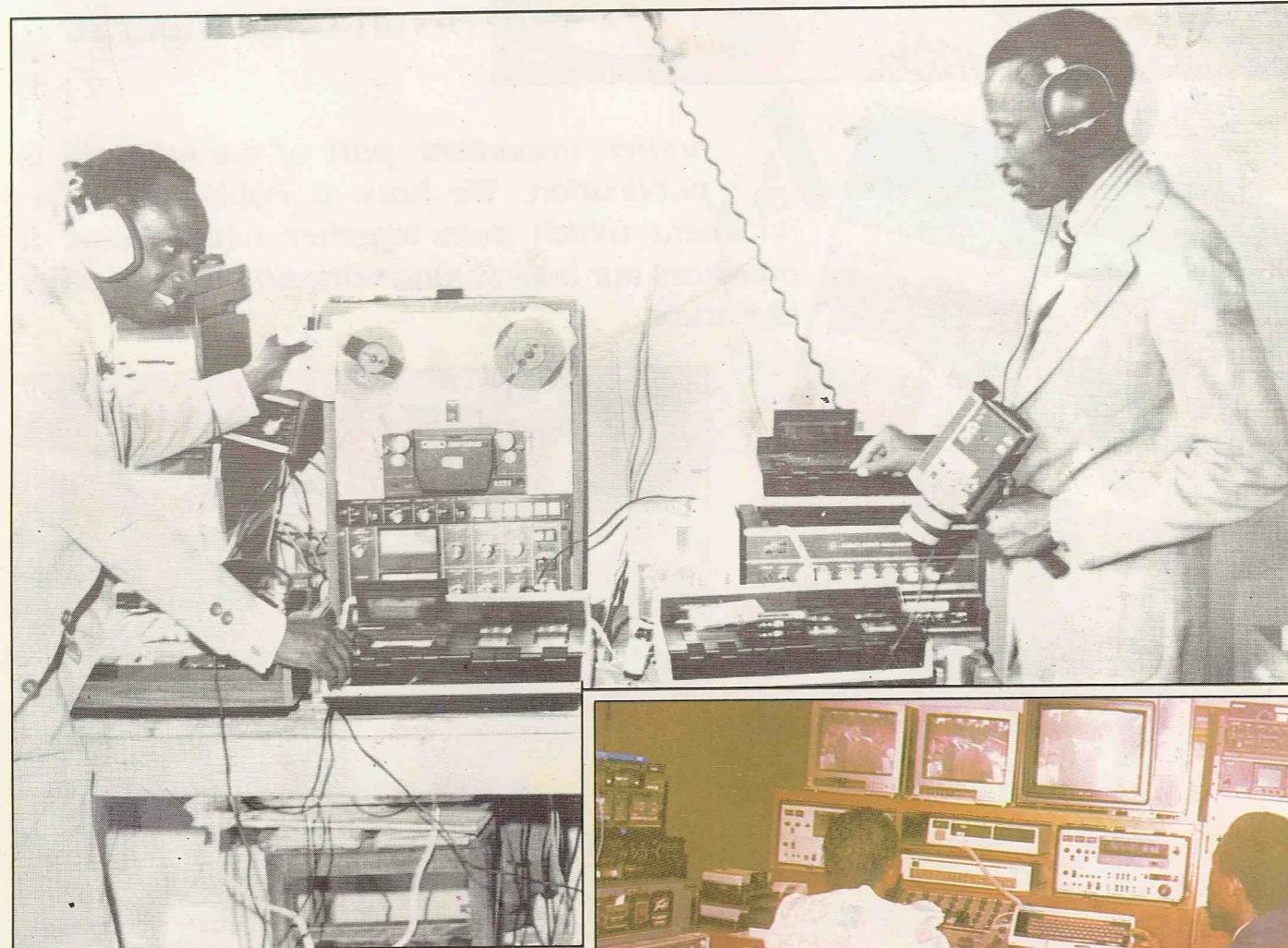


Our department of General Services is responsible for our trailers and buses which convey worshippers to and from worship centres, local crusades, and other such evangelistic endeavours

General Services also supervise our building projects. This is the foundation laying ceremony for the TV Studio which later became a lecture hall for the Bible School

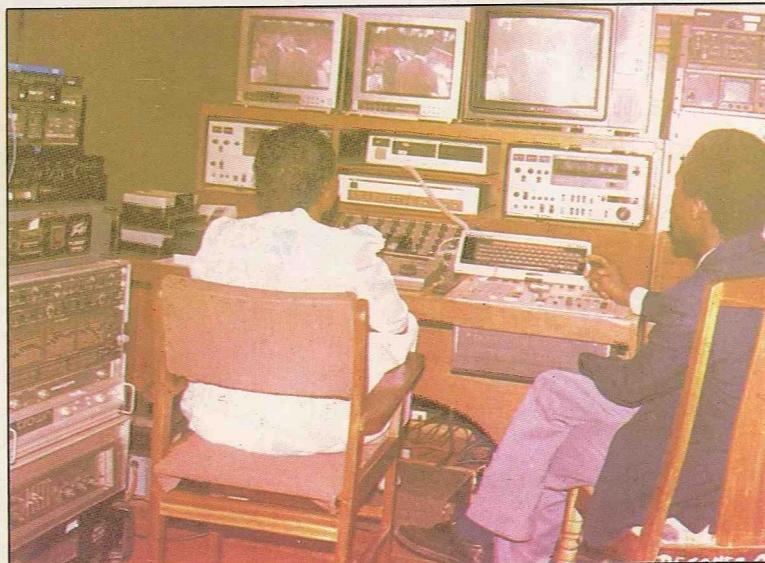
IWO Television

A very functional arm of the Ministry is the Television Department which is responsible for the filming and production of our video and audio tapes, as well as our television and radio air time programmes.



Two T. V. department staff doing some editing .

The T. V. department started like this. Here are our first television and radio equipments.

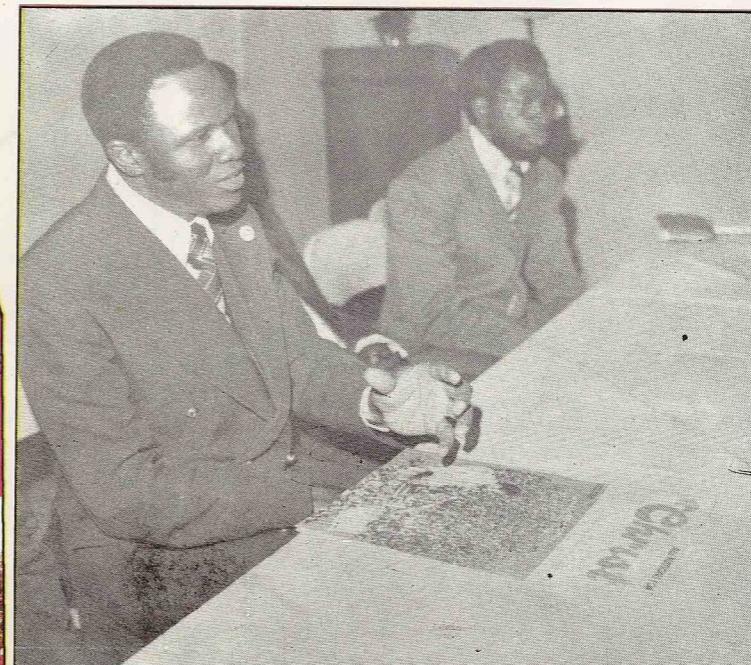




The T.V. department produces our Video Tapes, and presently, the titles are numerous, and they can be ordered directly from the ministry's headquarters here in Benin City, Nigeria.

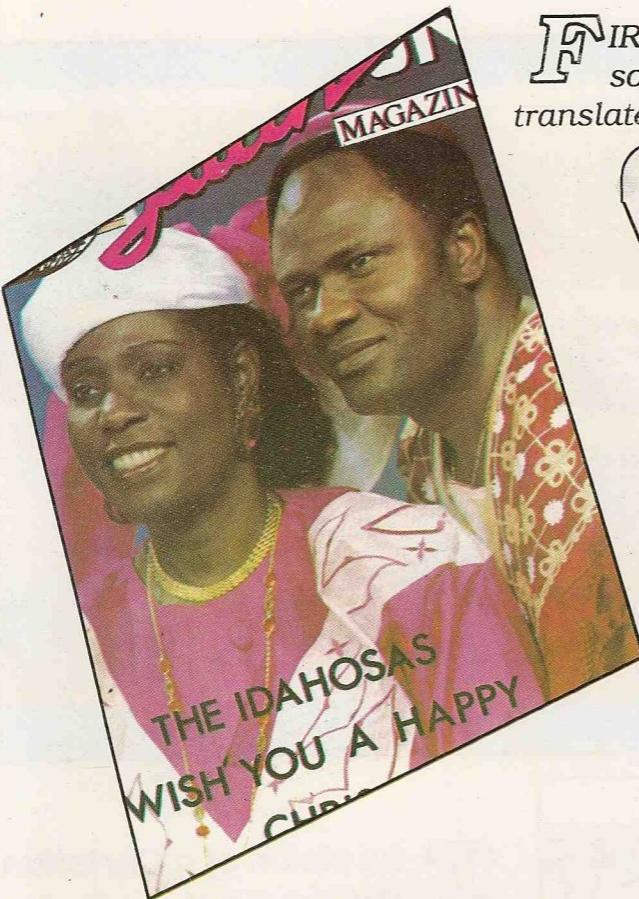


Another important part of our ministry is publication. We have a Publications Department which puts together what I say. It produces our books, magazines as well as other literature.

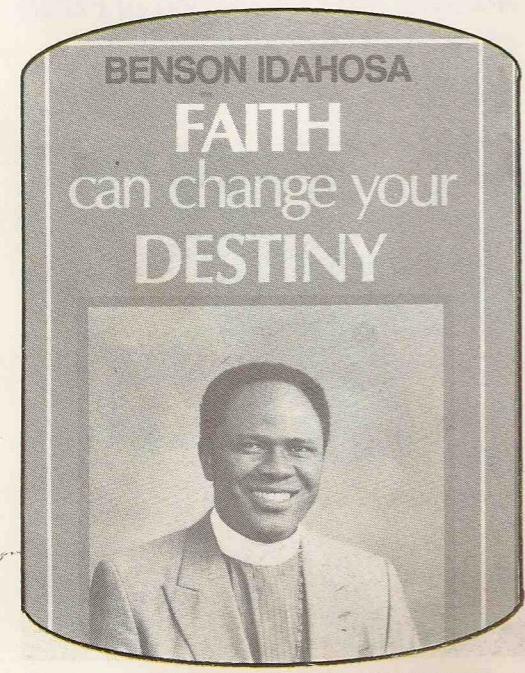


Our first magazines were very simple, (an example is the one on the table before me in the photograph), and they were mostly for local consumption.

study For A Show

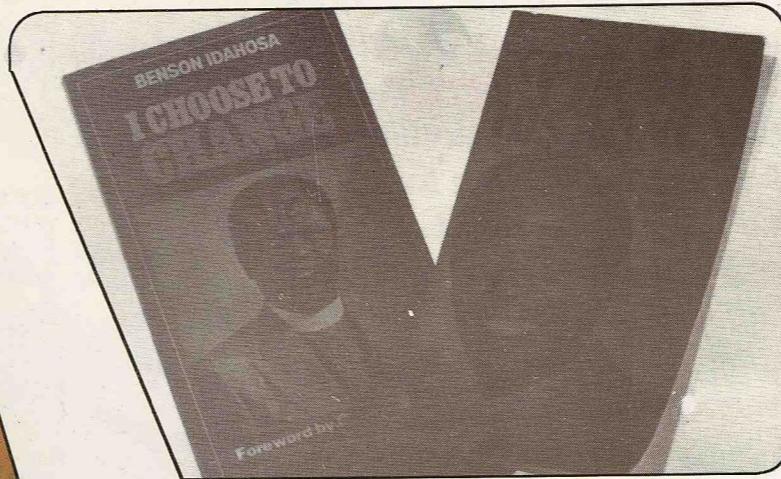


But today, they are more refined and go places. We are still on an improvement match!

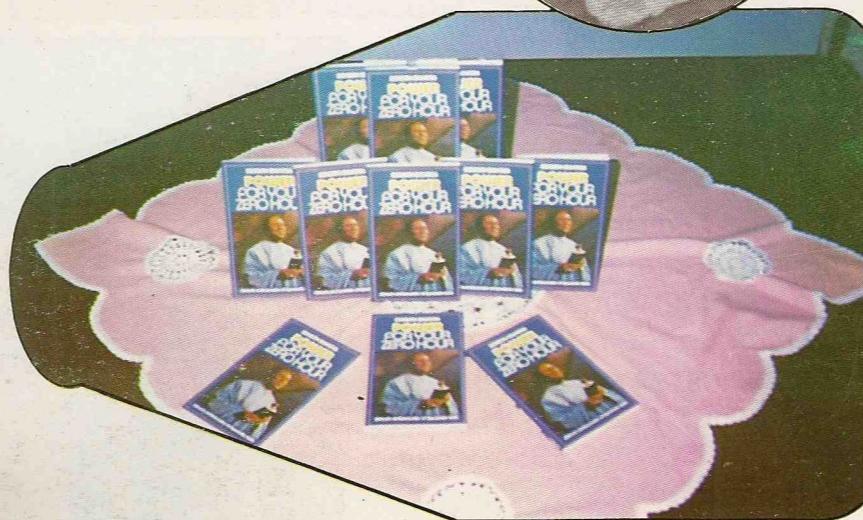
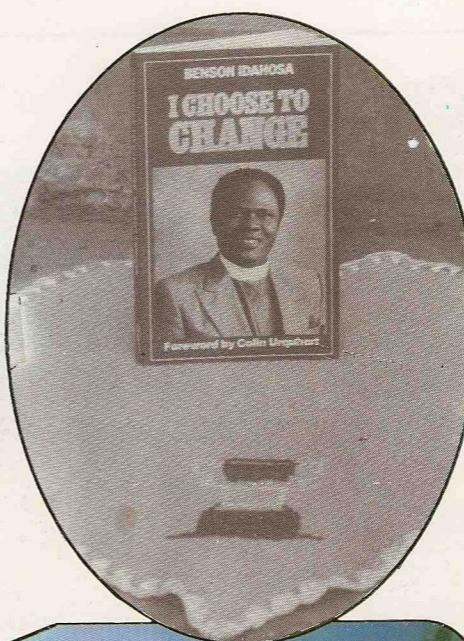


Then there is FAITH CAN CHANGE YOUR DESTINY

FIRE IN HIS BONES is my biography which has since sold more than two million copies, and has been translated into several languages like German and French.



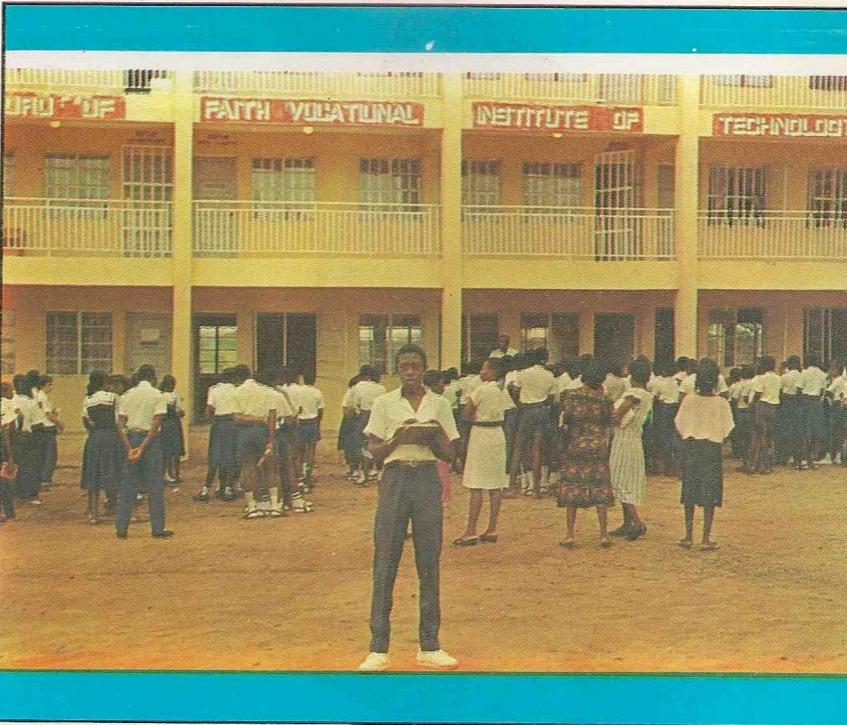
I
CHOOSE
TO
CHANGE
is another
of my
books



and POWER FOR YOUR ZERO HOUR

A Christian School System

*I*n pursuance of the realization of God's commission to me, we have led countless souls to Christ. The desire for the consolidation and edification of the souls won has led to continued establishment of new churches and now to the establishment of an effective and dynamic Christian school system.



*T*he vision of a Christian School for the mission which God revealed first to Rev. Dr. Margaret Idahosa was birthed in 1981 and has since been nursed into one of the school systems most sought for - The Word of Faith Group of Schools.

*T*oday, this group of schools is an affiliate of Oral Roberts University, having been accredited by that illustrious institution. In 1989, the Federal Government of Nigeria granted recognition to the Word of Faith Group of Schools, thus making the primary and the college arms of the school qualified for National Entrance Examinations and JSS and SSS examinations respectively.



I take the salute



Here are some of the students during their first annual inter-house sports competition.

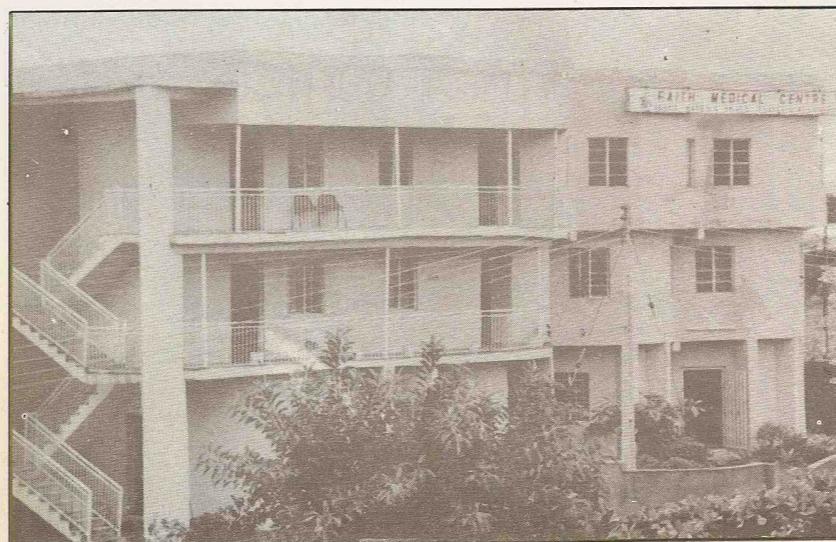


The international nature of our ministry is here reflected by the various national flags which are carried by the students.

I take the salute!

A foolish preacher believes only in prayer and despises medicine; and a foolish medical doctor believes only in medicine and despises prayer. We believe in prayer and medicine. All healings, whether they be by prayer or by medicine, come from God. We pray for the sick but God does the healing," I heard myself say in one of my sermons when I listened to the play back of a recorded message.

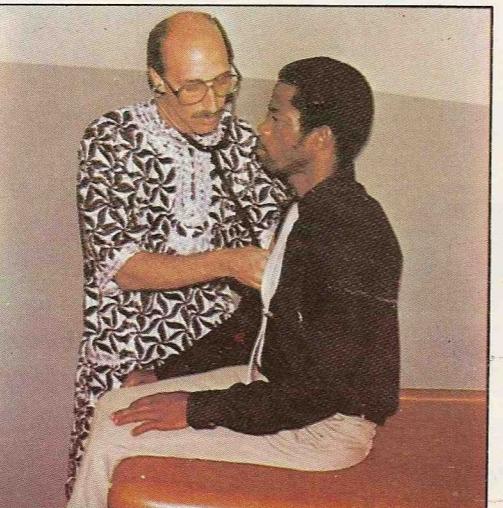
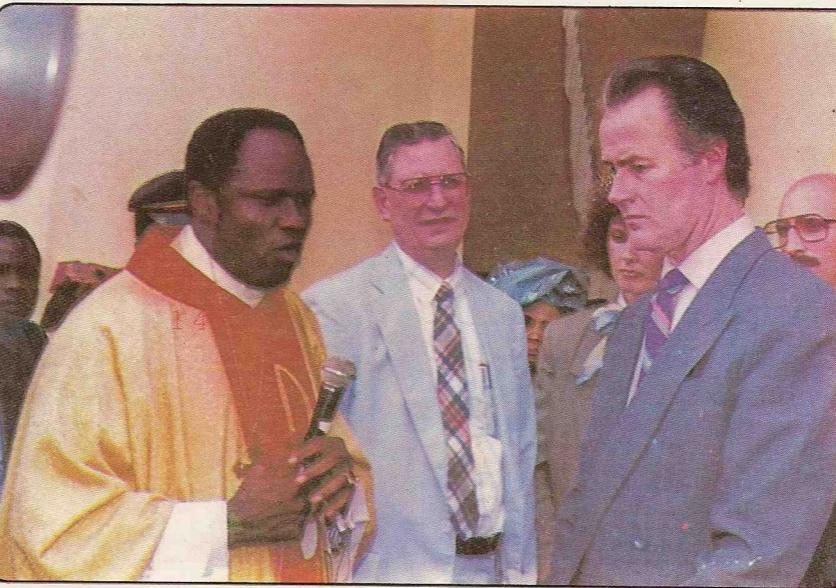
That belief by the Church of God Mission has led to the establishment of our Faith Medical Centre in co-operation with the Medical School of the Oral Roberts University.



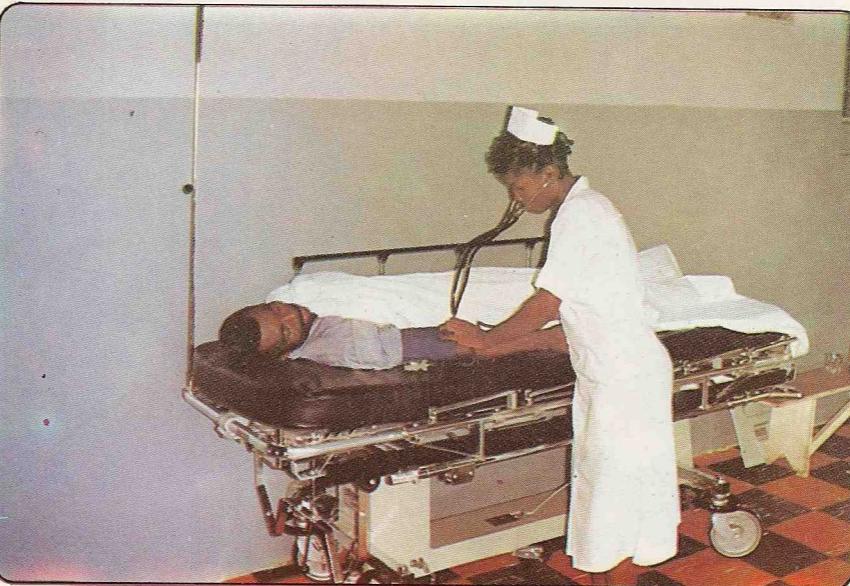
God Heals By Prayer & Medicine

On August 6, 1989, Evangelist Richard Roberts came to Benin-City, Nigeria, to commission the Faith Medical Centre and to present Dr. and Mrs. Babo as medical doctor and administrator respectively, of the clinic.

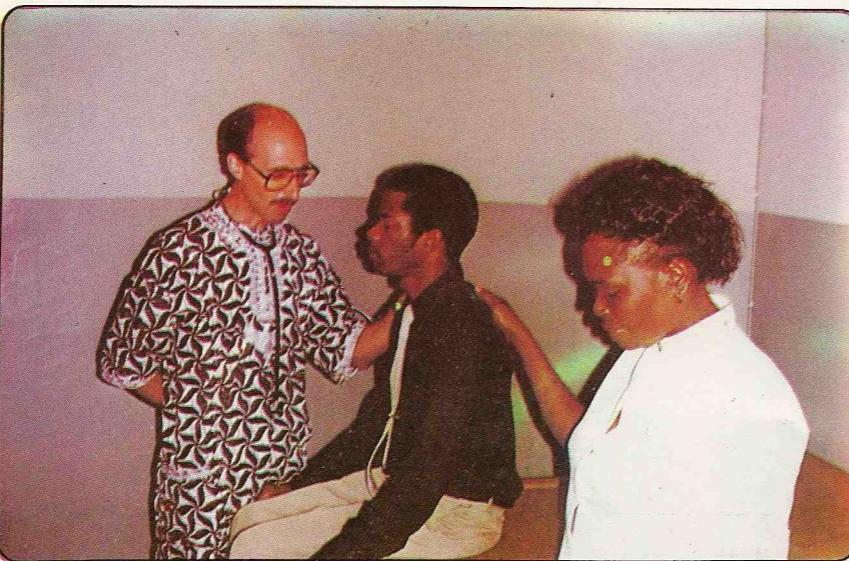
Accompanied by his oldest daughter Christy Roberts, Dr. Larry Edwards the Dean of the Oral Roberts University (ORU) School of Medicine, Dr. John Norwells, Professor of Anatomy at the School of medicine and the ORU television crew, Richard Roberts commissioned the clinic and handed over Dr. and Mrs. Babo to me.



Dr. Mark Babo conducts a physical examination of a patient.

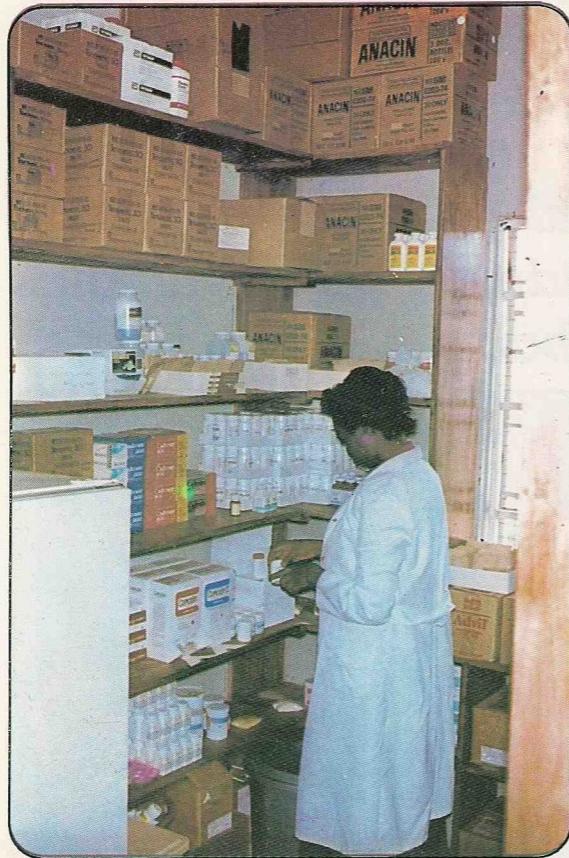


Emergency medical services are available 24 hours every day at the Faith Medical Centre. A nurse here obtains this patient's vital signs prior to doctor's examination.



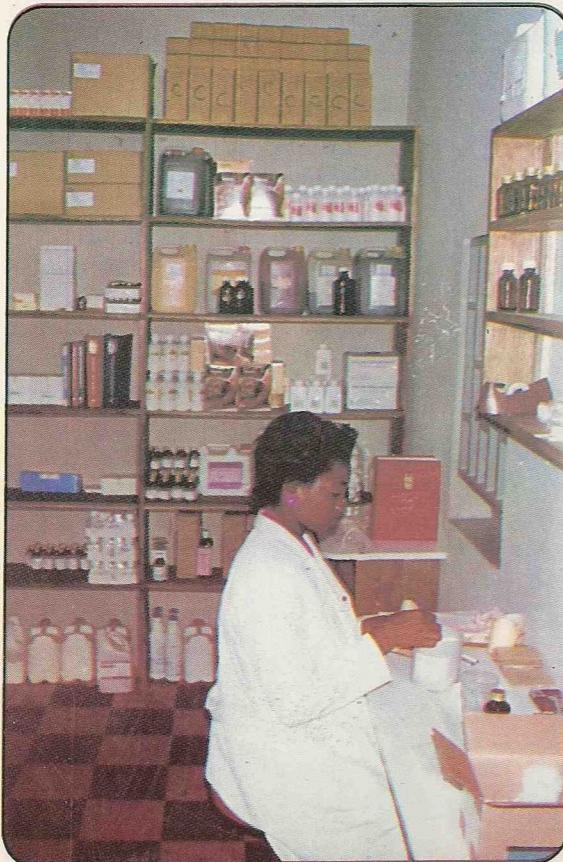
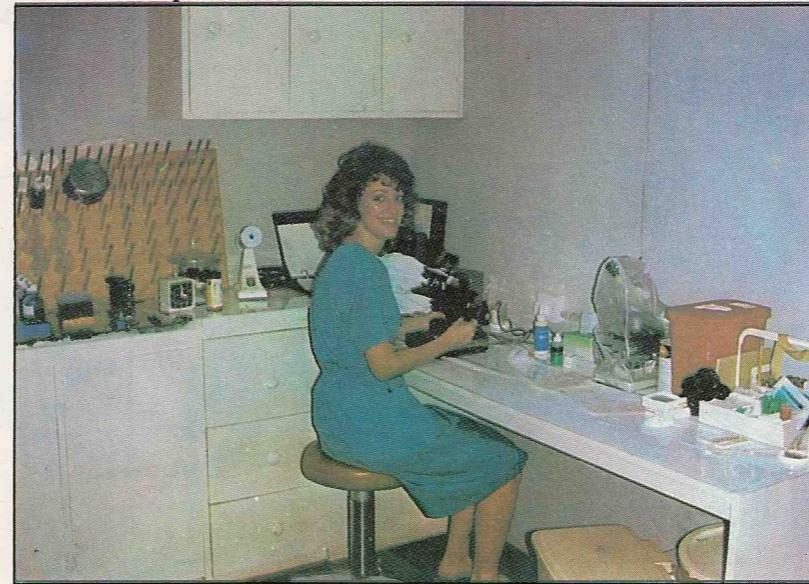
At the Faith Medical Centre, Spiritual care works hand in hand with medical treatment. We combine prayer and medicine.

Science and Technology is here for health!



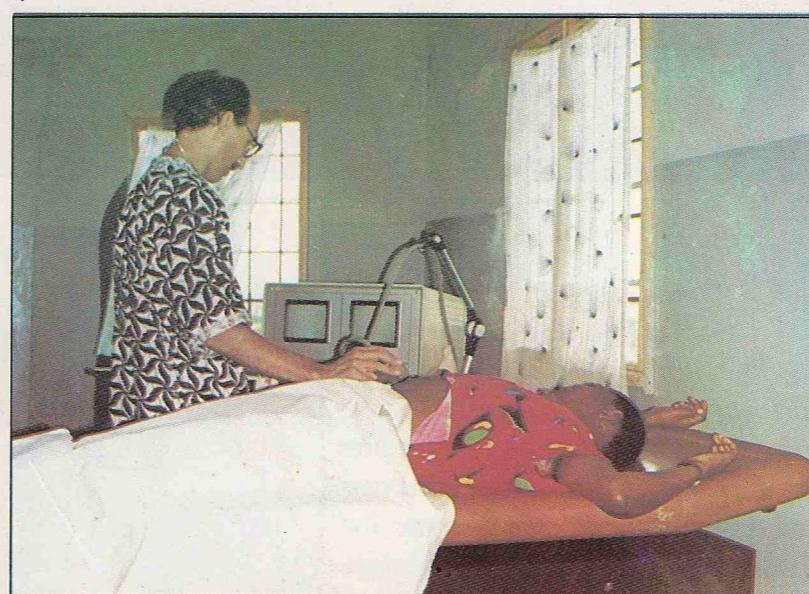
S

ophisticated laboratory services are available at the Faith Medical Centre. Here, a Laboratory Medical Technologist examines a blood specimen.



P

armacy Technician selects the appropriate medication to fill the doctor's prescription.



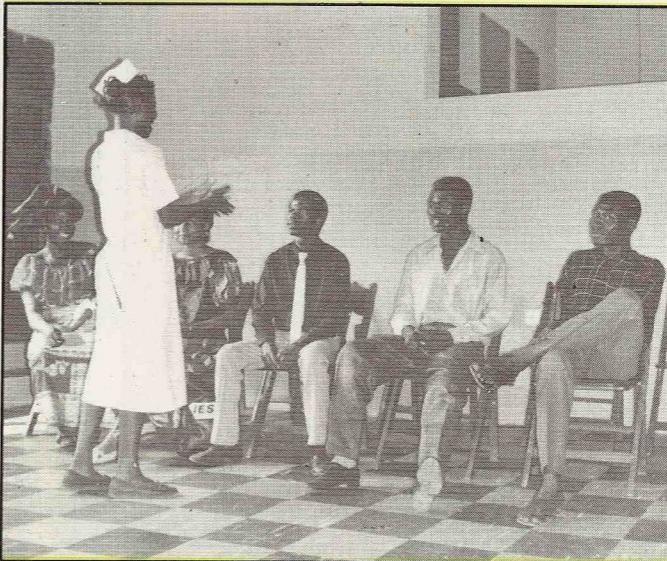
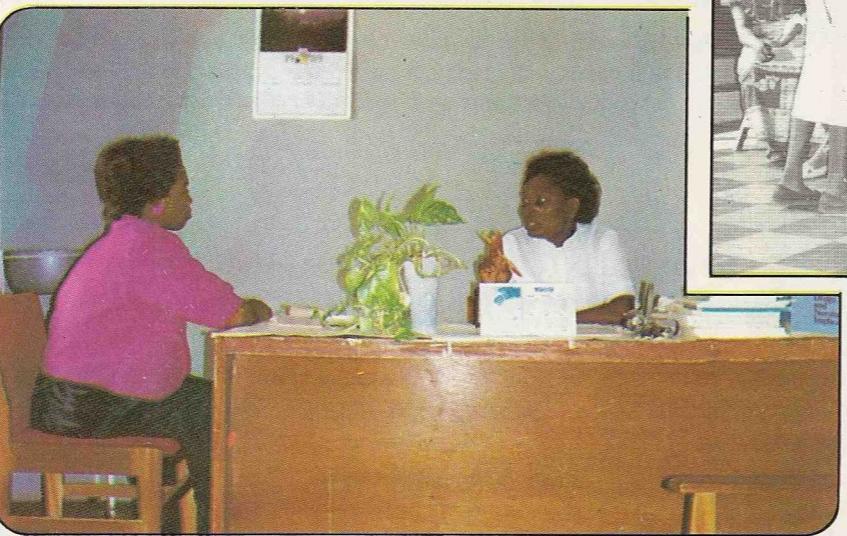
U

ltrasound technology provides early detection of pregnancy complications. Here, the doctor examines an antenatal patient.

Through the social ranks right from the bottom



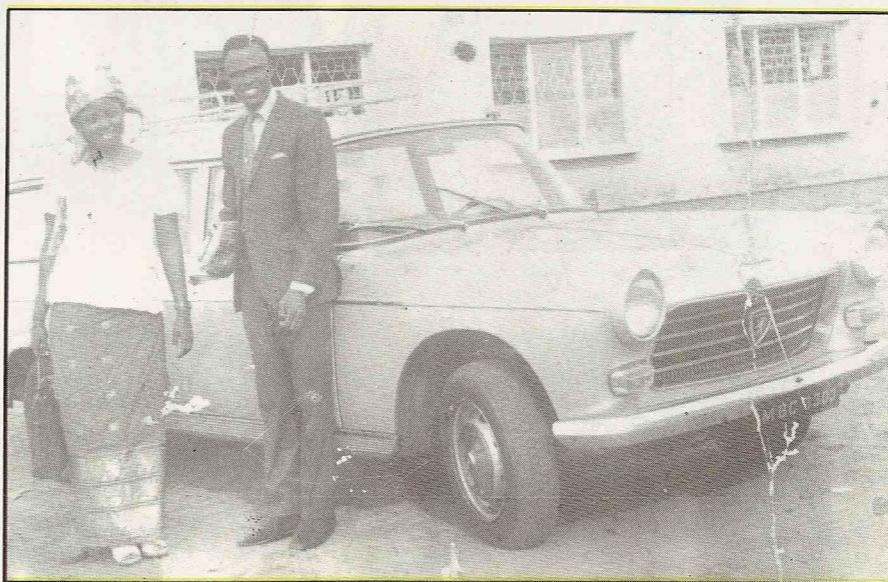
Proper child care is emphasized to help children grow up with good health. A staff midwife, here, evaluates a baby.

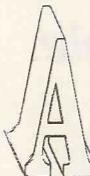
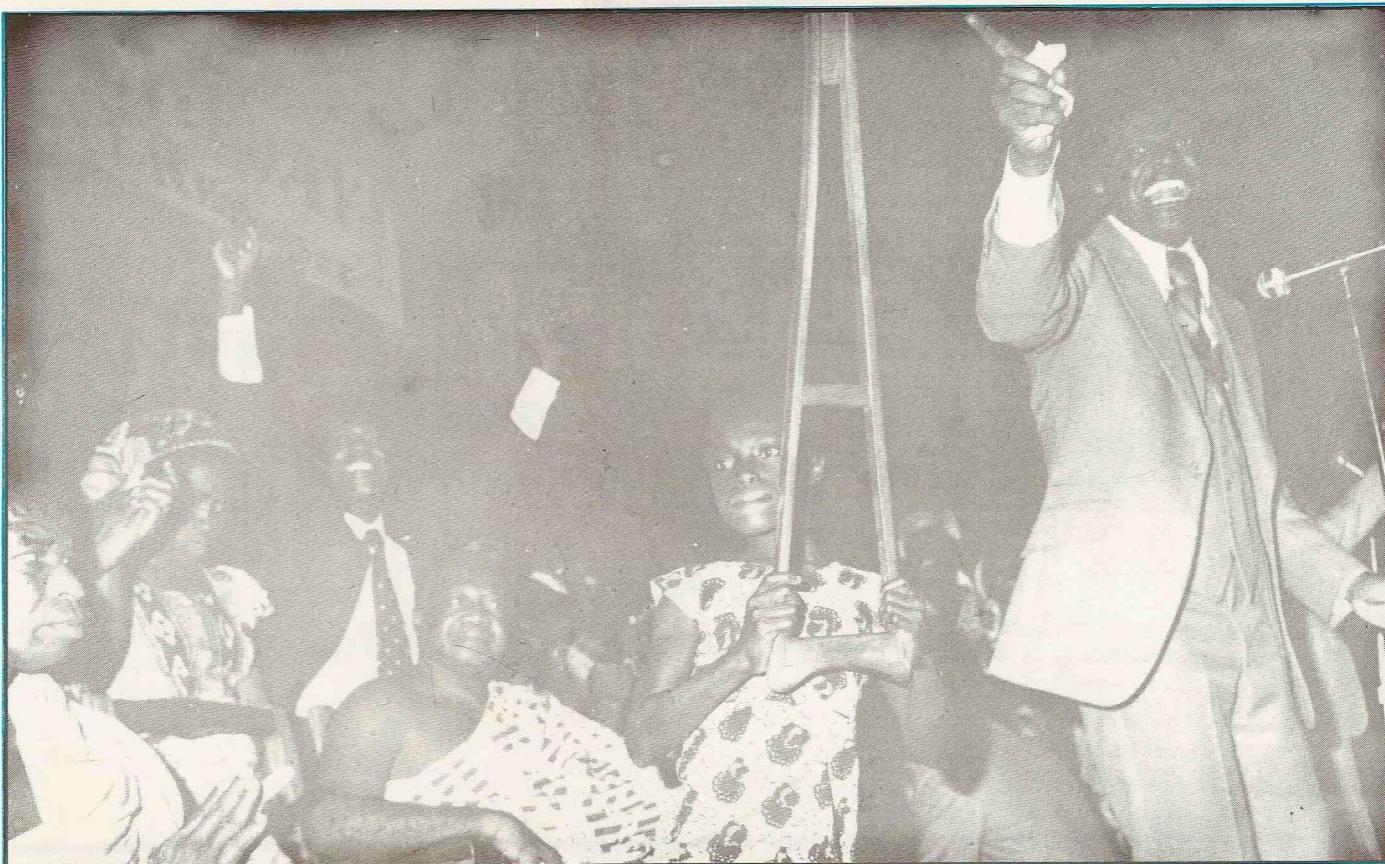


At the Faith Medical Centre, disease-prevention is encouraged through patient education by qualified nursing staff.

A qualified and efficient Matron manages the medical centre nursing staff.

If this story in photograph looks like a success story, then the idea behind its writing is well portrayed. But the ministry has not been without its challenges. I have not always been Archbishop. God took me through the social ranks right from the bottom. However, God has always provided for my needs and those of the ministry. This was my first car.



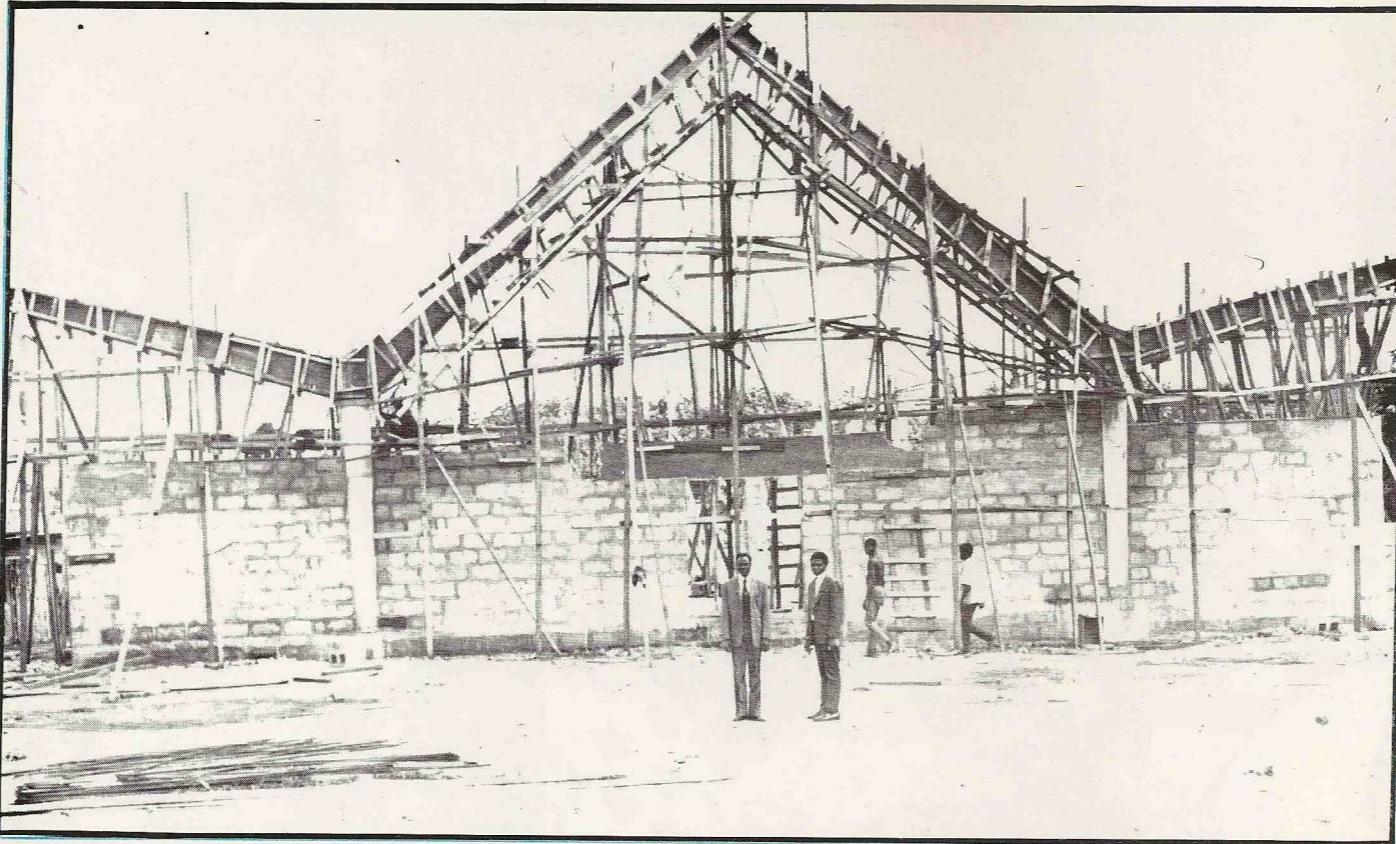


And through the years, God has not ceased honouring His Name and power in our ministry. In victory, this little girl raises up her clutches as a sign of healing in one of my early crusades in Ghana. Sitting just behind the healed girl is the Asantehene, the king of the Ashanti people of Ghana.

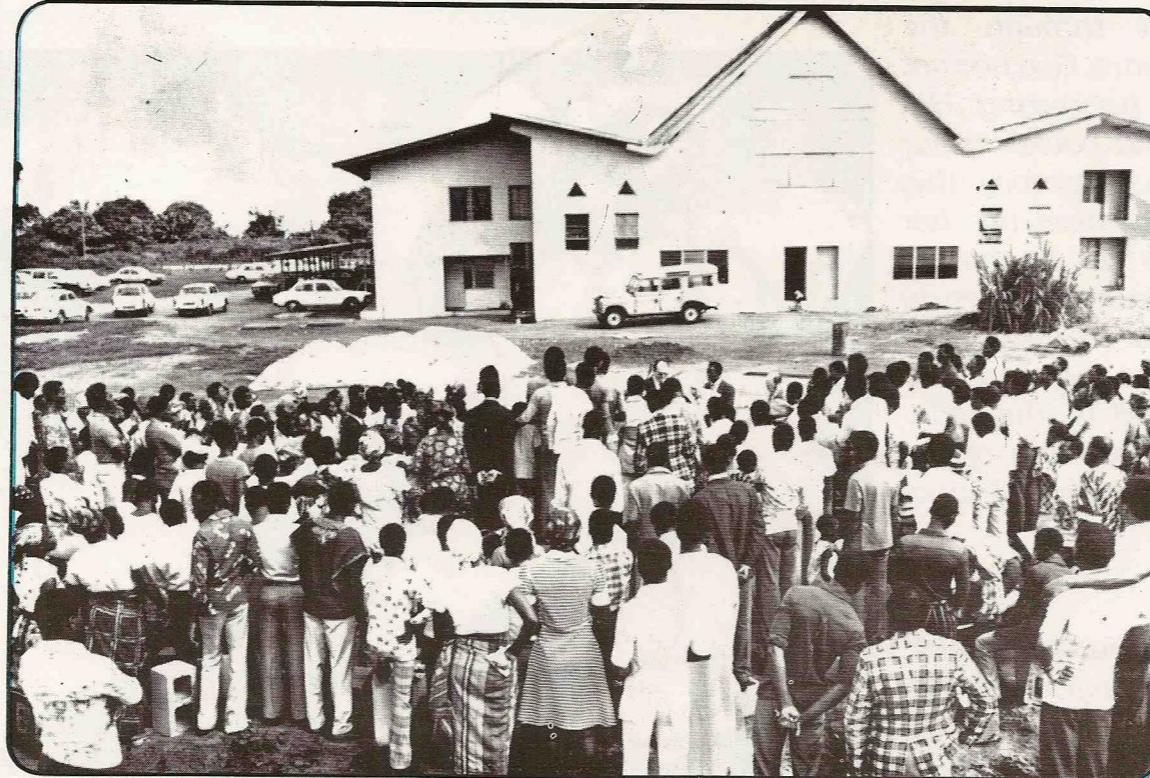


God has honoured my wife and I with good children. Here is our last born Freda being dedicated.

The Labour of Love



We labour to build, the Miracle Centre for example.

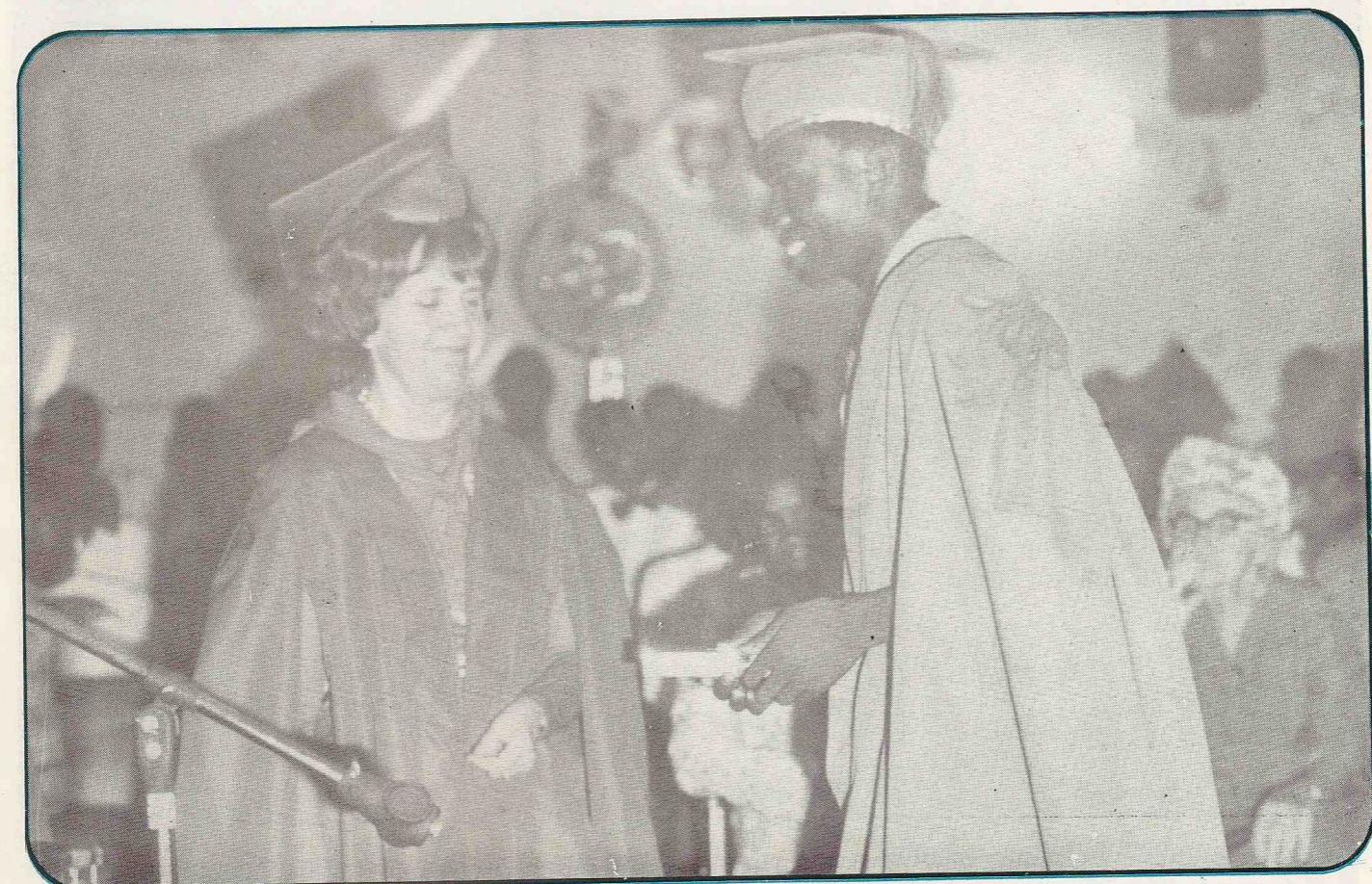


And we have the joy of seeing our work stand, despite
numerous obstacles

I graduated from CFNI Dallas USA, here in Benin City, Nigeria.



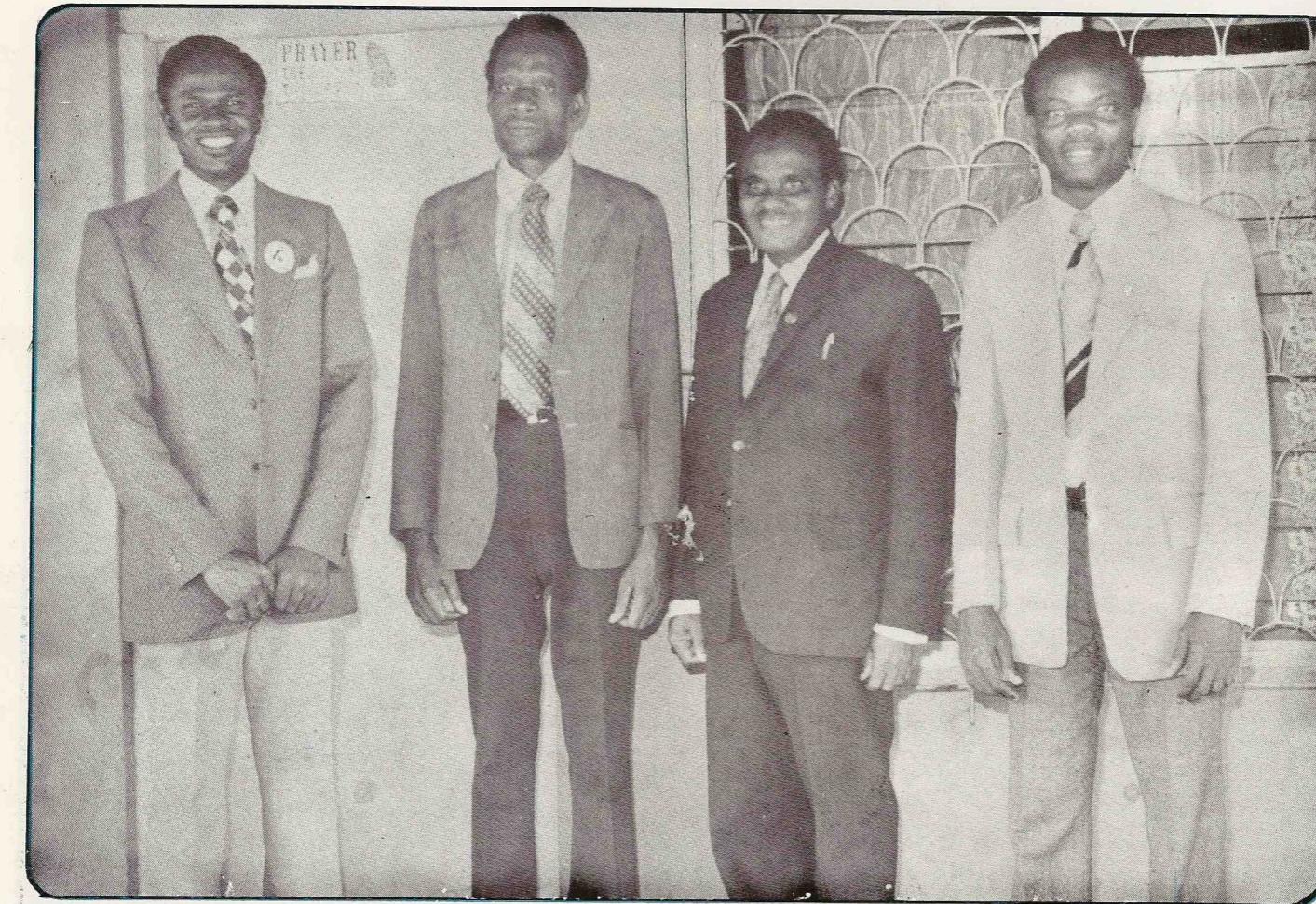
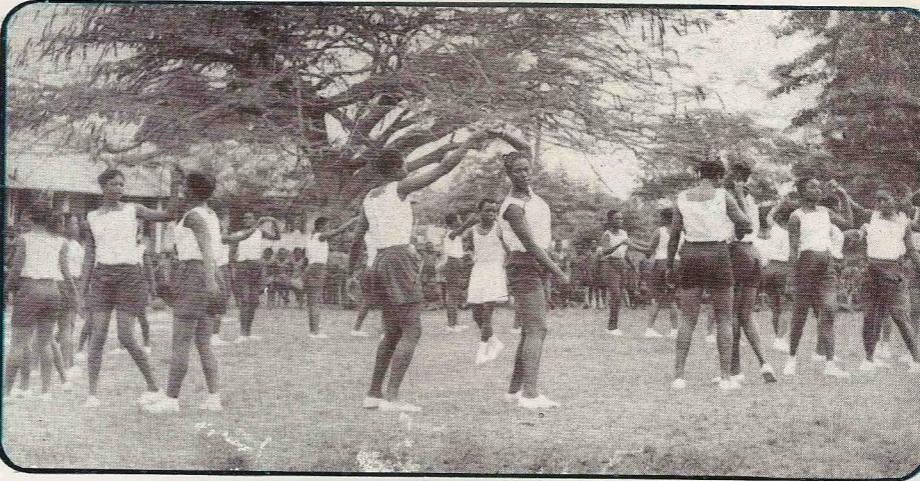
Jwork and share with other men of God as in this Nairobi International Conference For Renewal in the August of 1975 in Nairobi



When I went for studies in Christ For The Nations Institute, I could not complete my course because of the burden for souls. But the love which Mrs. Gordon Lindsay, my mother in the Lord, had for me made her come to Nigeria to give me my graduation. Thus I graduated as a student of Christ For the Nations Institute Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. here in Benin City, Nigeria.

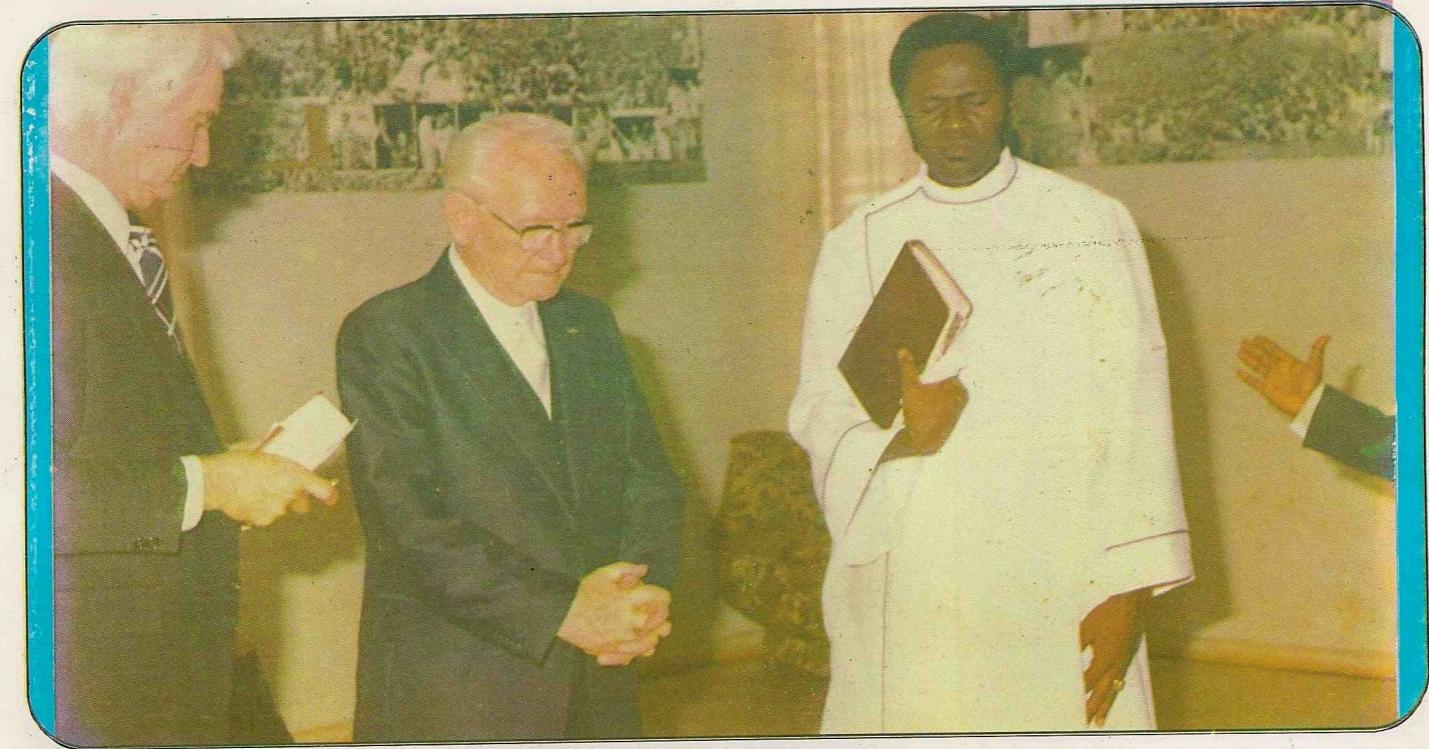
You will become what God says you will become

And Rev. Dr. Margaret Idahosa did not become a woman of international repute from her mother's womb. She struggled through school like many in her time.

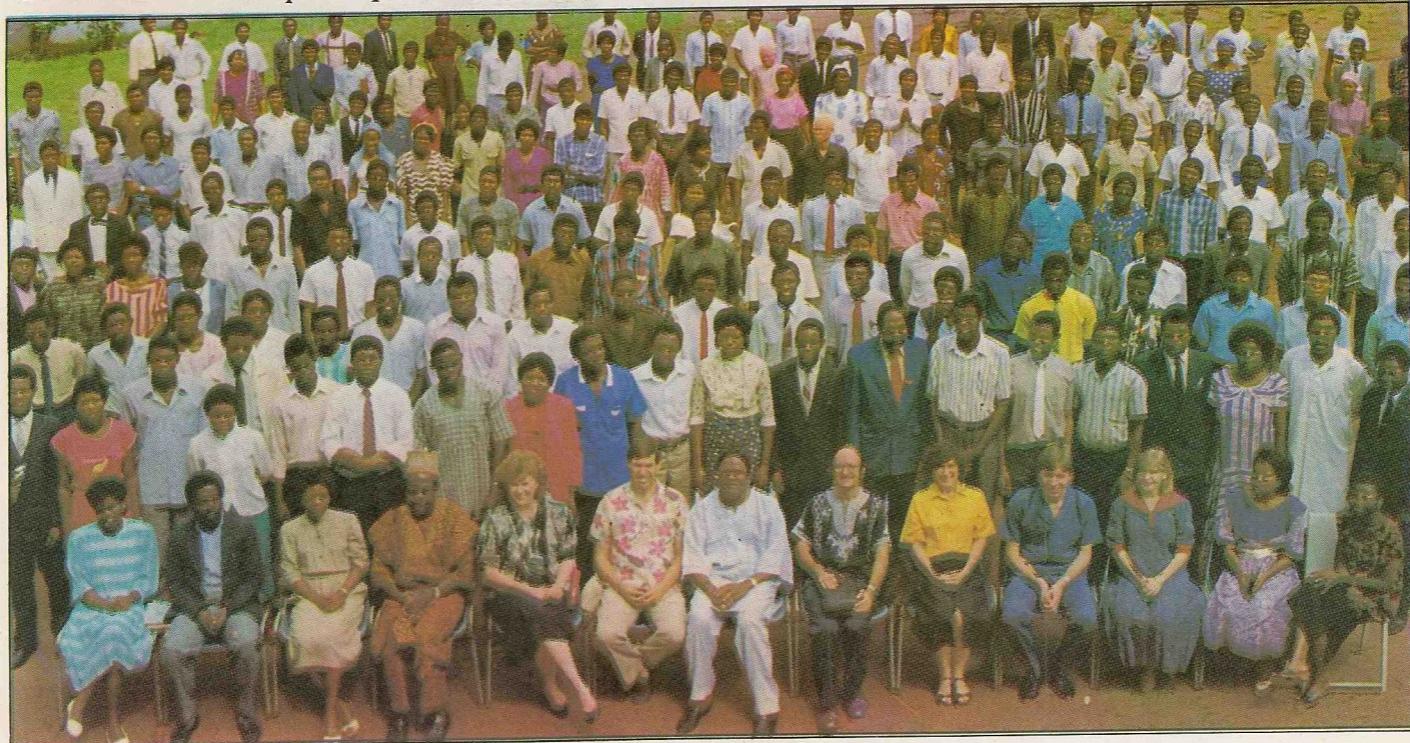


But no matter what your experience in life is, no matter the obstacles you encounter and the hardships you weather, if you are a child of God, you will become what God says you will become. Close to the mid-eighties, the leadership of Church of God Mission International decided to adopt the episcopal style of ecclesiastical administration. Accordingly, the highest office in the Church became that of the Archbishop, and the church leadership decided that I must assume the title and office by consecration. A few ministers in the Church disagreed and dragged us to court. These people were led by Rev. Ekubo, Rev. Akinjobi, Rev. Itive and Ogiarnien now late. Here are Revs. Ekubo, Akinjobi and Itive.

The God of the final say

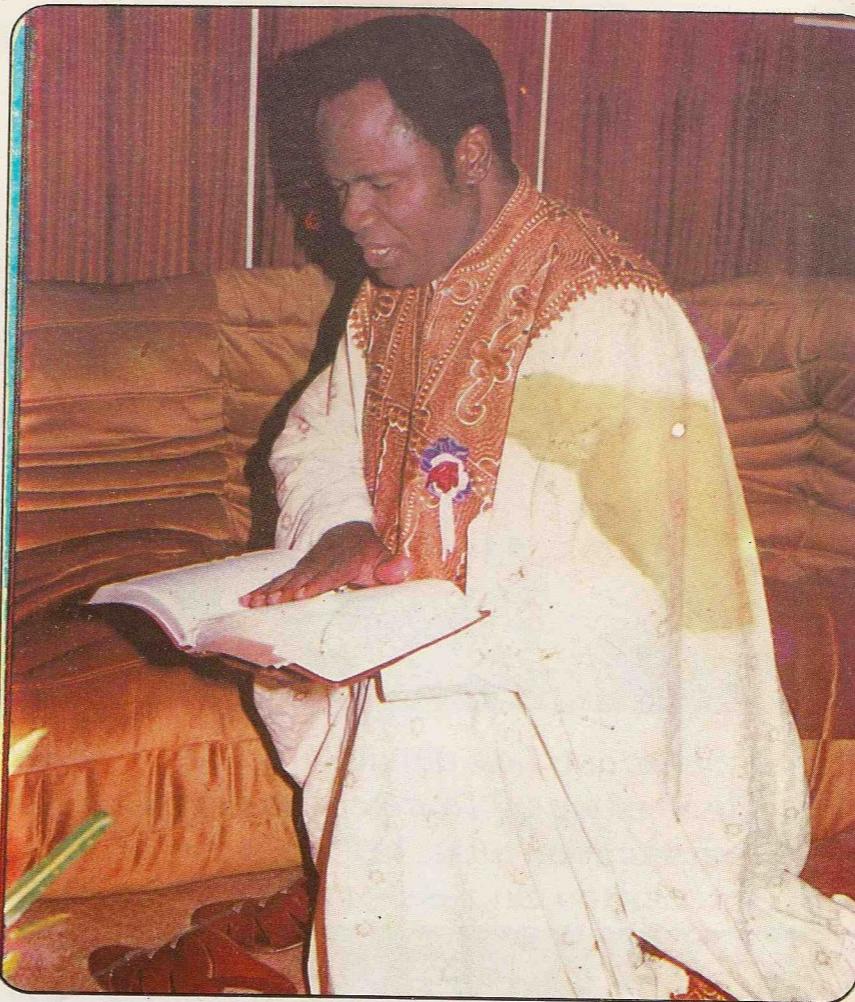
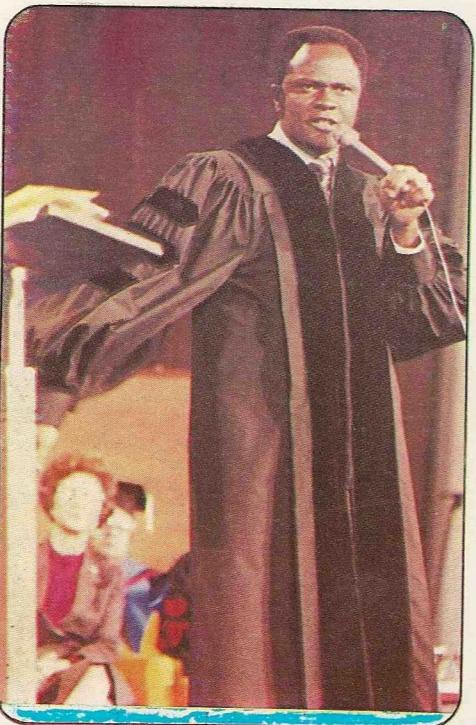


But because God always have the final say, in 1985, I was consecrated Archbishop of Church of God Mission International Incorporated. The consecration was led by a group of ministers from the U.S.A. They included Bishop Duplessis (Mr. Pentecost) in the middle, and Bishop Myers.



And Today, as Archbishop, I work with a team of dedicated men and women to groom ministers of the Gospel, as in the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute (in Photograph).

I pray that you walk worthy of the Lord

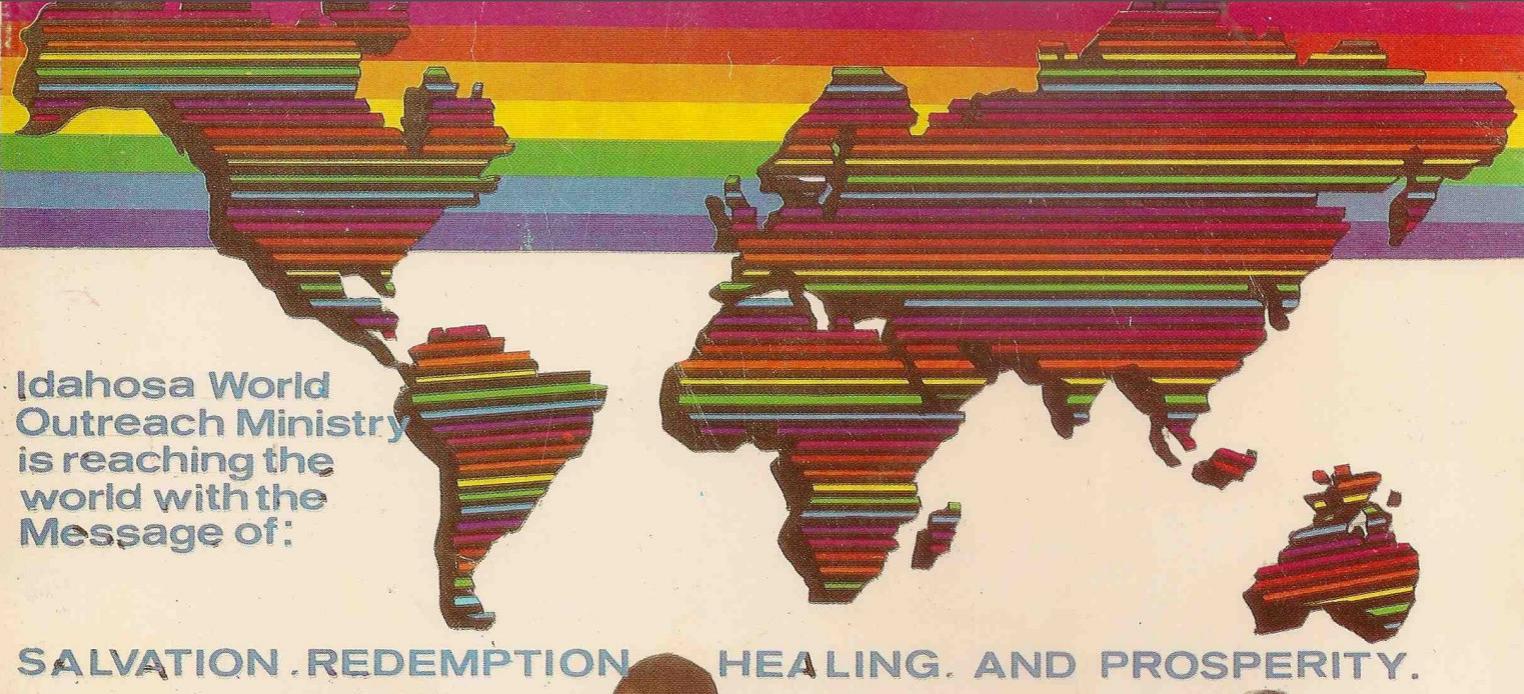


J preach the Gospel with signs and wonders following, as here in Oral Roberts University.

And pray for the Ministry, our partners, other men of God and Christians everywhere.

Now I pray that you will walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, Who has made us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, (Col. 1:10-13).

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. (Num. 6:24-26). Amen. Halleluia!



Idahosa World Outreach Ministry
is reaching the world with the Message of:

SALVATION. REDEMPTION. HEALING. AND PROSPERITY.

